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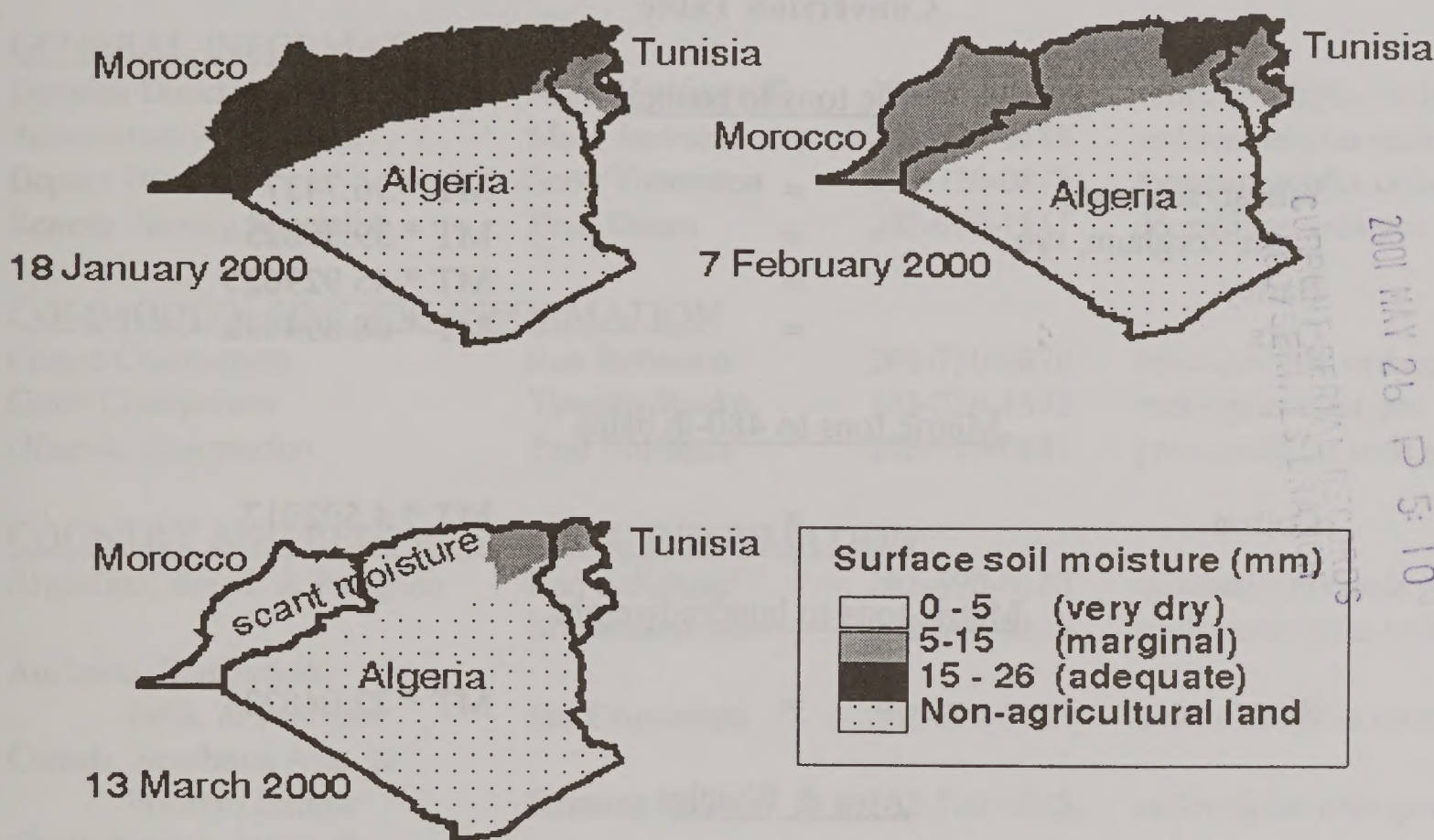
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Circular Series
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April 2000

World Agricultural Production

Northwest Africa's Grain Crops Suffer as Soil Moisture Levels were Deficient During Development



During the second half of March, a USDA team traveled through the main agricultural regions of Morocco and Tunisia to assess winter grain (wheat and barley) conditions. Winter crops for the 2000/01 season in portions of Northwest Africa are suffering to from a second straight year of below normal rainfall. After receiving nearly optimal weather conditions from early rains arriving in October and lasting through mid-December, production expectations were high. However, rainfall has been practically nonexistent in Morocco and western Algeria from the beginning of January. Early April showers were not enough to restore soil moisture levels. Production is expected to be down significantly from the 1999/2000 poor harvest.

Conversely, in Tunisia, the wheat crop grown in the northern zones received more regular precipitation than the barley areas. Occasional showers and infrequent rains during winter and early spring may lead to an "average" crop. Crop prospects are better for wheat than barley. On May 12, USDA will release the first country forecast of 2000/01 area, yield, and production for wheat and coarse grains.

This report uses information from the Foreign Agricultural Services' global network of agricultural attaches and counselors; official statistics of foreign governments and other foreign source materials; and the results of economic and satellite imagery analysis. Estimates of foreign area, yield and production are from the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, and are reviewed by USDA's Inter-Agency Commodity Estimates Committees. Estimates of U.S. area, yield and production are from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Numbers within the report may not add to totals because of rounding. This report reflects official USDA estimates released in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE-361), April 11, 2000.

This report was prepared by the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS/USDA. The next issue of World Agricultural Production will be released after 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on May 18, 2000.

Conversion Table

Metric tons to bushels

Wheat, soybeans	=	MT * 36.7437
Corn, sorghum, rye	=	MT * 39.36825
Barley	=	MT * 45.929625
Oats	=	MT * 68.894438

Metric tons to 480-lb bales

Cotton	=	MT * 4.592917
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Metric tons to hundredweight

Rice	=	MT * 22.04622
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Area & Weight

1 hectare	=	2.471044 acres
1kilogram	=	2.204622 pounds

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WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Foreign Agricultural Service at <http://www.fas.usda.gov>
FAS Weekly Weather Maps at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/pecad/weather/weekly.html>
National Agricultural Statistics Service at <http://www.usda.nass.gov>
World Agricultural Outlook Board at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob>
Economic Research Service at <http://www.econ.ag.gov>
Joint Agricultural Weather Facility at <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

April 2000

SUBJECT

PAGE

PRODUCTION BRIEFS

South Africa: Favorable Weather Boosts Corn Yield	6
Argentina: Expanded Area and Favorable Weather Raise Soybean Production	6
India: Rice Production Rises to Record Level	6
Argentina: Revisions Hike Wheat Production	6
Nigeria: Peanut Production Revised Upward	7
Mexico: Barley and Sorghum Output Revised Lower	7
Thailand: Corn Estimate Falls Following Excessive Rainfall	7

TABLES

Table 1. U.S. Crop Acreage, Yield, and Production	8
Table 2. World Crop Production Summary	9
Table 3. Wheat Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	10
Table 4. Total Coarse Grain Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	11
Table 5. Corn Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	12
Table 6. Barley Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	13
Table 7. Oats Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	14
Table 8. Rye Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	15
Table 9. Sorghum Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	16
Table 10. Rice Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	17
Table 11. Total Oilseed Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	18
Table 12. Soybean Area, Yield, and Production: World and Selected Countries and Regions	19

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
----------------	-------------

Table 13. Cottonseed Area, Yield, and Production:	
World and Selected Countries and Regions	20
Table 14. Peanut Area, Yield, and Production:	
World and Selected Countries and Regions	21
Table 15. Sunflowerseed Area, Yield, and Production:	
World and Selected Countries and Regions	22
Table 16. Rapeseed Area, Yield, and Production:	
World and Selected Countries and Regions	23
Table 17. Copra, Palm Kernel, and Palm Oil Production:	
World and Selected Countries and Regions	24
Table 18. Cotton Area, Yield, and Production:	
World and Selected Countries and Regions	25
Table 19. Reliability of Production Projections	26

MAPS

Map 1. World Agricultural Weather Highlights	27
Map 2. April Normal Crop Calendar	28
Map 3. May Normal Crop Calendar	29

WEATHER BRIEFS

Northwestern Africa: No Significant Rainfall In March	30
Middle East: Winter Grains Hurt By Dryness In Syria and Iran	30
Spain: March Rainfall Brings Some Relief	30

FEATURE COMMODITY ARTICLES

Foreign Winter Grain Area Projected Higher for the 2000/01 Crops	31
Morocco and Tunisia Field Travel: Moroccan Drought Caused Grain Losses, but Tunisia May Recover	38

PRODUCTION BRIEFS

South Africa: Favorable Weather Boosts Corn Yield

South Africa's 1999/2000 corn crop is estimated at 10.0 million tons, up 0.5 million from last month and up 2.3 million from last year due to higher estimated yields. Widespread showers and seasonable temperatures covered the central Maize Triangle in March, maintaining very good moisture levels for filling and maturing corn. In northern and western corn areas, which experienced excessive rainfall and flooding in February, drier weather in March favored crop development. Recent warm, dry weather followed a brief cool wet period in early April, improving conditions for corn maturation and early harvest activities. The corn harvest normally begins in April and continues through July.

Argentina: Expanded Area and Favorable Weather Raise Soybean Production

Argentina's 1999/2000 soybean crop is estimated at a record 21 million tons, up 5 percent from last month and 6 percent above last season. Harvested area is estimated at a record 8.35 million hectares, 2 percent above last month and last season. Planting of a record 8.55 million hectares was completed in early February. An estimated 28 percent of the total area is second-crop soybeans compared to about 25 percent last season. Dryness caused planting delays early in the season. Since then, the season has been characterized by favorable weather except in portions of the eastern growing region that experienced persistently dry conditions. Yields for the early planted crop in Entre Rios (3-4% of total production) and adjacent areas are expected to be below average. On the

other hand, western growing areas are expecting higher than average yields due to very good growing conditions this season. Harvest began in mid-March, and conditions have been favorable with only slight delays. As of March 31, approximately 6 percent of the crop had been harvested with yields reported ranging from 2 to 3.5 tons per hectare.

India: Rice Production Rises to Record Level

India's 1999/2000 rice crop is estimated at a record 86.5 million tons (milled basis), 1 percent higher than the previous high of 86.0 million tons produced last season. Area is forecast at 44.5 million hectares, unchanged from last month and near the record 1998/99 area of 44.6 million. The forecast yield of 2.92 tons per hectare is also a record. This increase is a result of record production in major rice producing states, and improved production outlook for the spring/summer harvested paddy. The increase more than offset the rice crop loss from cyclone 05B in Orissa.

Argentina: Revisions Hike Wheat Production

Argentina's 1999/2000 wheat crop is estimated at 15.0 million tons, up 0.5 million from last month and 23 percent above last season's revised output. Harvested area is estimated at 5.8 million hectares, and up 8 percent from last season. Yield is estimated at a near record 2.59 tons per hectare. Growing conditions were generally good. Effects of colder weather in the latter part of the season were minimal. Harvest was completed in mid-January and the weather was favorably dry.

The 1998/99 crop is also revised upward this month by 0.2 million tons to 12.2 million.

Nigeria: Peanut Production Revised Upward

Nigerian peanut production for 1999/2000 is estimated at 1.45 million tons. Production for 1998/99 is revised to 1.43 million, based on revisions in the historical data series. Peanuts have been gaining in popularity across the savanna region of Nigeria for 8 years. To a great extent, Nigeria's crop is produced by smallholder farmers. Commercial farming (units greater than 10 hectares) reportedly accounts for less than 5 percent of the total harvest.

Mexico: Barley and Sorghum Output Revised Lower

Mexico total grain (wheat, coarse grains, and rice) production for 1999/2000 is estimated at 29.2 million tons, up 1.1 million tons from last year. According to harvest results, the

sorghum crop is reduced 0.3 million tons this month to 6.2 million, while barley output is down 0.1 million tons to 0.5 million. The relative absence of rainfall from November 1998 to June 1999, and below-normal rainfall for all of 1999, lowered output. Grains are grown year-round in Mexico; however, over 65 percent of the national total is produced in the summer months (April-September).

Thailand: Corn Estimate Falls Following Excessive Rainfall

Thailand is expected to produce 3.8 million tons of corn in 1999/2000, down 7 percent from last month's estimate and down 12 percent from 1998/99's crop. Production is down because flooding caused a small loss of area, and the same excessive rain that brought the flooding also harmed yields. Heavy rainfall from September through November 1999 stunted the vegetative growth of corn in part of the country, then rotted the fully-grown corn ears.

TABLE 1
U.S. Crop Acreage, Yield, and Production

COMMODITY	Planted Area			Harvested Area			Yield			Production		
	Prel.			Prel.			Prel.			Prel.		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00 Proj.	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00 Proj.	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00 Proj.	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00 Proj.
All Wheat	--Million acres--			--Million acres--			--Bushels per acre--			--Million bushels--		
	70.4	65.8	62.8	62.8	59.0	53.9	39.5	43.2	42.7	2,481	2,547	2,302
	48.0	46.4	43.4	41.3	40.1	35.6	44.6	46.9	47.8	1,846	1,881	1,700
	22.4	19.4	19.4	21.5	18.9	18.3	29.5	35.2	32.9	635	666	602
Soybeans	70.0	72.0	73.8	69.1	70.4	72.5	38.9	38.9	36.5	2,689	2,741	2,643
Corn	79.5	80.2	77.4	72.7	72.6	70.5	126.7	134.4	133.8	9,207	9,759	9,437
Sorghum	10.1	9.6	9.3	9.2	7.7	8.5	69.2	67.3	69.7	634	520	595
Barley	6.7	6.3	5.2	6.2	5.9	4.8	58.1	60.0	59.2	360	352	282
Oats	5.1	4.9	4.7	2.8	2.8	2.5	59.5	60.2	59.6	167	166	146
Rice							--Pounds per acre--			--Million CWT--		
	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.6	5,897	5,669	5,908	183.0	188.1	210.5
All Cotton	13.9	13.4	14.9	13.4	10.7	13.4	673	625	608	18.8	13.9	17.0
										--Million 480-pound bales--		

April 2000

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 2
World Crop Production Summary

Commodity	World	Total Foreign	North America			Europe		FSU-12	Asia				South America		Selected Other			All Others		
			United States	Canada	Mexico	Europe Union	Oth. Europe		China	India	Indonesia	Pakistan	Thailand	Argentina	Brazil	Australia	South Africa		Turkey	
---Million metric tons---																				
<u>Wheat</u> 1997/98 1998/99 prel. 1999/00 proj. Mar. Apr.	609.3	541.8	67.5	24.3	3.6	94.2	0.9	34.3	80.3	123.4	69.4	0.0	16.7	0.0	14.8	2.4	19.4	2.5	16.0	39.7
	589.2	519.8	69.3	24.1	3.2	103.1	0.9	33.7	55.9	109.7	66.4	0.0	18.7	0.0	12.2	2.2	22.1	1.7	18.5	47.3
	585.6	522.9	62.7	26.9	3.1	96.9	0.9	28.9	64.8	115.0	70.8	0.0	17.9	0.0	14.5	2.4	24.5	1.6	16.5	38.3
	587.0	524.3	62.7	26.9	3.1	96.9	0.9	28.9	64.8	115.0	70.8	0.0	17.9	0.0	15.0	2.4	24.5	1.6	16.5	39.1
<u>Coarse Grains</u> 1997/98 1998/99 prel. 1999/00 proj. Mar. Apr.	884.1	623.7	260.4	25.1	23.1	109.4	1.7	59.0	68.7	114.7	31.0	5.7	1.8	3.9	24.7	31.3	9.5	8.3	10.0	95.8
	889.5	618.0	271.5	26.6	24.5	105.5	1.7	51.1	37.9	144.2	31.7	6.5	1.9	4.5	17.8	33.5	9.6	8.2	10.5	102.4
	872.7	609.3	263.4	26.8	26.2	103.1	1.7	51.9	40.9	139.1	28.5	6.2	1.8	4.3	19.9	32.9	7.7	9.9	10.0	98.5
	871.0	607.6	263.4	26.8	25.8	102.9	1.7	51.9	40.9	138.6	28.5	6.2	1.8	4.0	19.8	32.9	7.7	10.4	9.8	98.1
<u>Rice (Milled)</u> 1997/98 1998/99 prel. 1999/00 proj. Mar. Apr.	386.8	381.1	5.8	0.0	0.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.7	140.5	82.5	31.1	4.3	15.5	0.7	5.8	1.0	0.0	0.2	96.6
	393.8	387.9	5.9	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	139.1	86.0	32.1	4.7	15.2	1.1	7.7	1.0	0.0	0.2	98.0
	398.3	391.7	6.6	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	141.0	84.5	32.1	5.1	15.9	0.6	7.2	0.8	0.0	0.2	101.4
	400.7	394.1	6.6	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	141.0	86.5	32.1	5.1	15.9	0.6	7.3	0.8	0.0	0.2	101.8
<u>Total Grains 1/</u> 1997/98 1998/99 prel. 1999/00 proj. Mar. Apr.	1,880.3	1,546.6	333.7	49.4	27.1	205.4	2.6	93.4	149.8	378.5	182.8	36.8	22.8	19.4	40.1	39.5	29.9	10.7	26.3	232.1
	1,872.4	1,525.7	346.7	50.6	28.1	210.4	2.6	84.9	94.6	393.0	184.0	38.6	25.3	19.7	31.0	43.4	32.7	9.9	29.2	247.8
	1,856.6	1,523.9	332.7	53.6	29.6	201.7	2.6	80.8	106.5	395.1	183.8	38.3	24.8	20.2	35.0	42.5	33.0	11.5	26.7	238.2
	1,858.7	1,526.0	332.7	53.6	29.2	201.6	2.6	80.8	106.5	394.6	185.8	38.3	24.8	19.9	35.4	42.6	33.0	12.0	26.5	239.0
<u>Oilseeds 2/</u> 1997/98 1998/99 prel. 1999/00 proj. Mar. Apr.	287.8	204.7	83.1	9.2	0.7	15.0	0.1	4.2	9.0	43.4	24.3	2.3	3.7	0.5	26.2	33.4	2.0	0.9	2.0	28.0
	294.6	210.2	84.4	10.4	0.6	15.2	0.1	5.3	9.0	44.4	25.0	2.3	3.7	0.5	27.7	32.3	3.1	1.5	2.0	27.2
	295.8	213.7	82.1	11.7	0.5	16.5	0.1	6.6	11.0	44.3	23.7	2.3	4.1	0.5	27.1	31.6	3.6	0.8	2.1	27.2
	297.6	215.5	82.1	11.7	0.5	16.6	0.1	6.2	11.0	44.6	23.4	2.3	4.2	0.5	28.1	31.6	3.6	0.8	2.2	28.1
---Million 480 pound bales---																				
<u>Cotton</u> 1997/98 1998/99 prel. 1999/00 proj. Mar. Apr.	91.6	72.8	18.8	0.0	1.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	7.1	21.1	12.3	0.0	7.2	0.0	1.4	1.7	3.1	0.2	3.7	11.8
	84.5	70.6	13.9	0.0	1.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	6.6	20.7	12.7	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.9	2.1	3.3	0.2	3.9	10.6
	86.9	69.9	17.0	0.0	0.6	2.5	0.0	0.0	7.4	17.6	12.8	0.0	8.2	0.0	0.6	2.5	3.1	0.1	4.0	10.5
	87.0	70.0	17.0	0.0	0.6	2.5	0.0	0.0	7.4	17.6	12.8	0.0	8.2	0.0	0.6	2.5	3.1	0.1	4.0	10.6

1/ Includes wheat, coarse grains, and rice (milled) shown above.

2/ Includes soybean, cottonseed, peanut (inshell), sunflowerseed, rapeseed for individual countries. Copra and palm kernel are added to world totals.

Note: Entries of 0.0 indicate no reported or insignificant production.

April 2000

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 3
Wheat Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	227.83	224.97	216.58	217.22	2.67	2.62	2.70	2.70	609.34	589.15	585.59	586.96	1.37	0.23	-2.20	-0.37
United States	25.43	23.88	21.82	21.82	2.66	2.90	2.87	2.87	67.53	69.33	62.66	62.66	0.00	0.00	-6.66	-9.61
Total Foreign	202.39	201.10	194.76	195.40	2.68	2.58	2.68	2.68	541.80	519.83	522.93	524.29	1.37	0.26	4.47	0.86
Major Exporters	44.55	44.79	45.29	45.19	3.43	3.61	3.59	3.61	152.68	161.47	162.78	163.29	0.51	0.31	1.82	1.13
European Union	17.13	17.10	17.13	17.03	5.50	6.03	5.66	5.69	94.18	103.09	96.93	96.94	0.01	0.01	-6.15	-5.96
France	5.11	5.23	5.22	5.12	6.61	7.60	7.09	7.23	33.76	39.79	37.00	37.01	0.01	0.02	-2.78	-7.00
United Kingdom	2.04	2.05	1.85	1.85	7.38	7.56	8.05	8.05	15.02	15.47	14.87	14.87	0.00	0.00	-0.60	-3.88
Germany	2.72	2.80	2.61	2.61	7.29	7.20	7.54	7.54	19.83	20.19	19.68	19.68	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-2.50
Canada	11.41	10.77	10.36	10.36	2.13	2.24	2.59	2.59	24.28	24.08	26.85	26.85	0.00	0.00	2.77	11.52
Australia	10.31	11.58	12.00	12.00	1.88	1.91	2.04	2.04	19.42	22.11	24.50	24.50	0.00	0.00	2.39	10.82
Argentina	5.70	5.34	5.80	5.80	2.60	2.29	2.50	2.59	14.80	12.20	14.50	15.00	0.50	3.45	2.80	22.95
Major Importers	93.75	90.26	85.23	85.23	2.67	2.37	2.59	2.59	250.15	213.57	220.77	220.77	0.00	0.00	7.20	3.37
China	30.06	29.77	29.00	29.00	4.11	3.69	3.97	3.97	123.39	109.73	115.00	115.00	0.00	0.00	5.27	4.81
FSU-12	48.21	44.74	42.53	42.53	1.67	1.25	1.52	1.52	80.32	55.95	64.81	64.81	0.00	0.00	8.86	15.84
Russia	26.06	26.10	24.00	24.00	1.70	1.03	1.29	1.29	44.20	27.00	31.00	31.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	14.81
Ukraine	6.51	5.64	5.90	5.90	2.83	2.65	2.29	2.29	18.40	14.94	13.50	13.50	0.00	0.00	-1.44	-9.62
Kazakhstan	11.50	9.10	8.73	8.73	0.78	0.52	1.28	1.28	8.95	4.70	11.20	11.20	0.00	0.00	6.50	138.30
Baltic States	0.57	0.56	0.51	0.51	2.69	2.67	2.51	2.51	1.55	1.50	1.29	1.29	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-13.70
Eastern Europe	9.86	9.66	8.27	8.27	3.48	3.49	3.50	3.50	34.35	33.74	28.93	28.93	0.00	0.00	-4.81	-14.24
Poland	2.56	2.63	2.58	2.58	3.21	3.62	3.50	3.50	8.19	9.54	9.05	9.05	0.00	0.00	-0.49	-5.10
Romania	2.35	1.97	1.68	1.68	3.06	2.64	2.78	2.78	7.19	5.20	4.65	4.65	0.00	0.00	-0.55	-10.58
Egypt	1.04	1.02	1.03	1.03	5.60	5.99	6.02	6.02	5.85	6.09	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.00	0.11	1.76
Morocco	2.49	3.09	2.70	2.70	0.93	1.42	0.78	0.78	2.32	4.38	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00	-2.28	-52.03
Brazil	1.51	1.43	1.19	1.19	1.58	1.54	2.05	2.05	2.38	2.19	2.44	2.44	0.00	0.00	0.24	11.19
Other Foreign	64.09	66.05	64.24	64.98	2.17	2.19	2.17	2.16	138.98	144.79	139.38	140.24	0.86	0.62	-4.55	-3.14
India	25.89	26.70	27.40	27.40	2.68	2.49	2.58	2.58	69.35	66.35	70.78	70.78	0.00	0.00	4.43	6.68
Turkey	8.50	8.55	8.65	8.65	1.88	2.16	1.91	1.91	16.00	18.50	16.50	16.50	0.00	0.00	-2.00	-10.81
Pakistan	8.11	8.36	8.23	8.23	2.05	2.24	2.17	2.17	16.65	18.69	17.85	17.85	0.00	0.00	-0.84	-4.49
Mexico	0.80	0.77	0.75	0.70	4.54	4.21	4.13	4.43	3.64	3.24	3.10	3.10	0.00	0.00	-0.14	-4.17
Saudi Arabia	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	5.36	5.37	5.37	5.37	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	1.38	0.75	0.72	0.72	1.77	2.27	2.17	2.17	2.45	1.70	1.56	1.56	0.00	0.00	-0.14	-8.18
Others	19.07	20.60	18.15	18.95	1.53	1.68	1.53	1.51	29.09	34.51	27.78	28.64	0.86	3.09	-5.87	-17.01

TABLE 4
Total Coarse Grain Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	311.34	308.25	304.11	303.44	2.84	2.89	2.87	2.87	884.14	889.48	872.66	871.01	-1.64	-0.19	-18.47	-2.08
United States	36.89	36.16	35.08	35.08	7.06	7.51	7.51	7.51	260.43	271.47	263.38	263.38	0.00	0.00	-8.10	-2.98
Total Foreign	274.45	272.09	269.04	268.36	2.27	2.27	2.26	2.26	623.71	618.01	609.28	607.64	-1.64	-0.27	-10.37	-1.68
Major Exporters	49.95	49.89	50.06	49.78	3.65	4.13	4.06	4.08	182.24	206.27	203.38	203.21	-0.17	-0.08	-3.05	-1.48
Canada	7.59	7.38	6.94	6.94	3.31	3.60	3.86	3.86	25.12	26.57	26.77	26.77	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.76
Argentina	4.67	3.89	4.46	4.41	5.28	4.57	4.47	4.48	24.67	17.76	19.90	19.76	-0.14	-0.69	2.00	11.26
Australia	5.09	4.84	3.93	3.93	1.87	1.98	1.96	1.96	9.52	9.60	7.71	7.71	0.00	0.00	-1.90	-19.75
South Africa	4.54	4.42	4.94	4.86	1.82	1.84	2.01	2.15	8.28	8.15	9.91	10.43	0.52	5.25	2.28	28.01
China	28.05	29.36	29.80	29.65	4.09	4.91	4.67	4.67	114.65	144.19	139.10	138.55	-0.55	-0.40	-5.64	-3.91
Major Importers	86.44	81.50	78.53	78.41	3.06	2.74	2.87	2.87	264.66	223.35	225.62	225.05	-0.58	-0.26	1.69	0.76
FSU-12	38.62	33.57	31.57	31.58	1.78	1.13	1.29	1.29	68.71	37.92	40.87	40.87	0.00	0.00	2.95	7.79
Russia	24.96	22.05	20.60	20.60	1.67	0.86	1.06	1.06	41.60	18.95	21.80	21.80	0.00	0.00	2.85	15.04
Ukraine	6.50	5.92	5.53	5.54	2.38	1.75	1.80	1.80	15.46	10.35	9.95	9.95	0.00	0.00	-0.40	-3.85
Kazakhstan	3.67	2.17	2.03	2.03	0.79	0.64	1.34	1.34	2.91	1.39	2.72	2.72	0.00	0.00	1.33	96.03
Baltic States	1.23	1.20	1.12	1.12	2.25	2.16	1.76	1.76	2.77	2.58	1.97	1.97	0.00	0.00	-0.61	-23.64
European Union	20.49	20.08	19.18	19.14	5.34	5.26	5.37	5.38	109.40	105.55	103.05	102.90	-0.15	-0.15	-2.65	-2.51
Germany	4.29	4.33	4.12	4.12	5.98	5.63	5.98	5.98	25.66	24.39	24.62	24.62	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.96
France	3.99	3.92	3.74	3.75	7.32	7.22	7.33	7.32	29.21	28.28	27.44	27.43	-0.00	-0.01	-0.84	-2.98
Eastern Europe	16.40	16.09	15.49	15.49	3.60	3.18	3.35	3.35	58.97	51.13	51.86	51.86	0.00	0.00	0.73	1.43
Poland	6.34	6.21	6.06	6.06	2.71	2.84	2.71	2.71	17.21	17.61	16.43	16.43	0.00	0.00	-1.18	-6.73
Romania	3.88	3.80	3.68	3.68	3.86	2.67	3.25	3.25	14.95	10.14	11.93	11.93	0.00	0.00	1.79	17.65
Czech Rep.	0.84	0.74	0.69	0.69	3.79	3.69	4.09	4.09	3.19	2.74	2.84	2.84	0.00	0.00	0.10	3.66
Mexico	9.34	10.22	10.80	10.72	2.48	2.40	2.42	2.40	23.11	24.51	26.18	25.75	-0.42	-1.62	1.24	5.06
Other W. Europe	0.37	0.35	0.37	0.37	4.58	4.80	4.58	4.58	1.70	1.67	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.68
Other Foreign	138.06	140.71	140.45	140.16	1.28	1.34	1.28	1.28	176.81	188.39	180.28	179.38	-0.90	-0.50	-9.01	-4.78
Thailand	1.24	1.45	1.36	1.35	3.15	3.10	3.16	2.96	3.90	4.50	4.30	4.00	-0.30	-6.98	-0.50	-11.11
India	31.02	29.78	30.00	30.00	1.00	1.06	0.95	0.95	30.95	31.67	28.50	28.50	0.00	0.00	-3.17	-10.01
Brazil	12.04	12.92	12.96	12.96	2.60	2.59	2.54	2.54	31.29	33.46	32.91	32.91	0.00	0.00	-0.55	-1.64
Turkey	4.71	4.63	4.68	4.63	2.13	2.26	2.14	2.12	10.05	10.48	10.02	9.82	-0.20	-2.00	-0.66	-6.32
Indonesia	2.90	3.20	3.00	3.00	1.97	2.03	2.07	2.07	5.70	6.50	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.00	-0.30	-4.62
Philippines	2.37	2.77	2.70	2.70	1.49	1.77	1.67	1.67	3.53	4.89	4.50	4.50	0.00	0.00	-0.39	-8.05
Others	83.79	85.97	85.76	85.53	1.09	1.13	1.09	1.09	91.40	96.89	93.85	93.45	-0.40	-0.42	-3.44	-3.55

TABLE 5
Corn Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	136.28	139.09	140.61	140.38	4.22	4.35	4.27	4.28	575.35	605.26	600.72	600.83	0.11	0.02	-4.42	-0.73
United States	29.41	29.38	28.55	28.55	7.95	8.44	8.40	8.40	233.86	247.88	239.72	239.72	0.00	0.00	-8.16	-3.29
Total Foreign	106.87	109.71	112.07	111.84	3.20	3.26	3.22	3.23	341.49	357.37	361.00	361.11	0.11	0.03	3.74	1.05
Major Exporters																
Argentina	30.51	31.34	32.88	32.80	4.31	4.92	4.65	4.68	131.35	154.15	153.00	153.50	0.50	0.33	-0.65	-0.42
South Africa	3.18	2.61	3.10	3.10	6.10	5.18	5.00	5.00	19.36	13.50	15.50	15.50	0.00	0.00	2.00	14.81
China	3.56	3.49	3.98	3.90	2.16	2.21	2.39	2.56	7.69	7.70	9.50	10.00	0.50	5.26	2.30	29.87
	23.78	25.24	25.80	25.80	4.39	5.27	4.96	4.96	104.30	132.95	128.00	128.00	0.00	0.00	-4.95	-3.73
Major Importers																
Eastern Europe	21.52	21.46	21.51	21.52	4.60	3.91	4.18	4.18	98.98	83.96	89.97	89.88	-0.09	-0.10	5.91	7.04
Romania	6.91	6.89	6.75	6.75	4.68	3.69	4.15	4.15	32.34	25.43	28.03	28.03	0.00	0.00	2.60	10.21
Yugoslavia	3.03	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.18	2.83	3.50	3.50	12.68	8.50	10.50	10.50	0.00	0.00	2.00	23.53
European Union	2.12	2.12	1.90	1.90	4.59	3.88	3.68	3.68	9.70	8.20	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	-1.20	-14.63
France	4.27	4.12	4.15	4.15	9.03	8.56	8.95	8.93	38.52	35.30	37.15	37.06	-0.09	-0.23	1.76	5.00
Italy	1.84	1.80	1.76	1.76	9.10	8.45	8.87	8.87	16.75	15.20	15.63	15.63	0.00	0.00	0.43	2.80
Mexico	1.04	0.97	1.03	1.03	9.63	8.88	9.70	9.70	10.01	8.60	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	16.28
FSU-12	7.21	7.90	8.40	8.40	2.35	2.23	2.26	2.26	16.93	17.60	19.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	1.40	7.95
Russia	3.06	2.49	2.16	2.17	3.52	2.12	2.53	2.51	10.76	5.28	5.46	5.46	0.00	0.00	0.18	3.49
Ukraine	0.92	0.79	0.60	0.60	2.94	1.02	1.83	1.83	2.70	0.80	1.10	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.30	37.50
Other W. Europe	1.35	0.91	0.69	0.70	3.96	2.53	2.47	2.43	5.34	2.30	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	-0.60	-26.12
Others	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	8.80	8.41	8.80	8.80	0.22	0.19	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.04	18.92
	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	4.33	4.17	4.23	4.12	0.21	0.17	0.11	0.11	-0.00	-2.73	-0.06	-37.43
Other Foreign																
Thailand	54.84	56.91	57.68	57.52	2.03	2.10	2.05	2.05	111.16	119.26	118.04	117.74	-0.30	-0.25	-1.52	-1.28
Brazil	1.08	1.29	1.20	1.19	3.43	3.33	3.42	3.19	3.70	4.30	4.10	3.80	-0.30	-7.32	-0.50	-11.63
India	11.37	12.25	12.40	12.40	2.65	2.64	2.58	2.58	30.10	32.35	32.00	32.00	0.00	0.00	-0.35	-1.08
Canada	6.31	5.98	6.30	6.30	1.72	1.79	1.67	1.67	10.85	10.68	10.50	10.50	0.00	0.00	-0.18	-1.69
Indonesia	1.01	1.12	1.15	1.15	7.10	8.01	7.91	7.91	7.18	8.95	9.10	9.10	0.00	0.00	0.14	1.61
Philippines	2.90	3.20	3.00	3.00	1.97	2.03	2.07	2.07	5.70	6.50	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.00	-0.30	-4.62
Egypt	2.37	2.77	2.70	2.70	1.49	1.77	1.67	1.67	3.53	4.89	4.50	4.50	0.00	0.00	-0.39	-8.05
Zimbabwe	0.84	0.74	0.80	0.80	7.18	7.61	7.63	7.63	6.01	5.61	6.10	6.10	0.00	0.00	0.49	8.83
Others	1.23	1.45	1.40	1.40	1.19	1.03	1.21	1.21	1.46	1.50	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.20	13.33
	27.75	28.12	28.73	28.58	1.54	1.58	1.53	1.53	42.63	44.48	43.84	43.84	0.00	0.00	-0.64	-1.43

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

April 2000

TABLE 6
Barley Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
United States	64.89	61.01	56.57	56.29	2.38	2.24	2.27	2.27	154.59	136.71	128.33	127.88	-0.45	-0.35	-8.83	-6.46
Total Foreign	2.51	2.37	1.93	1.93	3.12	3.23	3.19	3.19	7.84	7.67	6.14	6.14	0.00	0.00	-1.53	-19.96
	62.39	58.64	54.64	54.37	2.35	2.20	2.24	2.24	146.76	129.04	122.20	121.74	-0.45	-0.37	-7.30	-5.66
European Union	11.86	11.47	10.90	10.90	4.44	4.52	4.49	4.49	52.61	51.91	48.89	48.89	0.00	0.00	-3.02	-5.81
Denmark	0.72	0.69	0.70	0.70	5.40	5.20	5.17	5.17	3.89	3.57	3.62	3.62	0.00	0.00	0.05	1.54
France	1.68	1.63	1.53	1.53	6.06	6.49	6.23	6.23	10.18	10.59	9.55	9.55	0.00	0.00	-1.04	-9.83
Germany	2.27	2.24	2.28	2.28	5.89	5.60	5.83	5.83	13.40	12.51	13.30	13.30	0.00	0.00	0.79	6.30
Italy	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	3.31	3.80	3.81	3.81	1.18	1.38	1.33	1.33	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-3.63
Spain	3.71	3.53	3.10	3.10	2.32	3.09	2.40	2.40	8.60	10.90	7.45	7.45	0.00	0.00	-3.45	-31.66
United Kingdom	1.33	1.26	1.18	1.18	5.89	5.28	5.59	5.59	7.83	6.63	6.58	6.58	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-0.75
FSU-12	21.04	18.14	17.07	17.07	1.62	1.09	1.25	1.25	34.19	19.68	21.37	21.37	0.00	0.00	1.69	8.57
Russia	12.52	11.28	10.50	10.50	1.66	0.87	1.01	1.01	20.80	9.80	10.60	10.60	0.00	0.00	0.80	8.16
Ukraine	3.70	3.57	3.47	3.47	2.00	1.65	1.84	1.84	7.41	5.88	6.40	6.40	0.00	0.00	0.52	8.81
Kazakstan	3.34	1.80	1.70	1.70	0.80	0.61	1.32	1.32	2.67	1.10	2.25	2.25	0.00	0.00	1.15	104.55
Baltic States	0.83	0.79	0.75	0.75	2.33	2.19	1.71	1.71	1.94	1.73	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00	-0.45	-26.07
Eastern Europe	3.67	3.43	3.11	3.11	3.27	3.08	3.13	3.13	12.01	10.56	9.73	9.73	0.00	0.00	-0.83	-7.85
Poland	1.24	1.14	1.11	1.11	3.11	3.17	3.07	3.07	3.87	3.61	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	-0.21	-5.84
Czech Rep.	0.65	0.58	0.55	0.55	3.84	3.62	4.04	4.04	2.49	2.09	2.20	2.20	0.00	0.00	0.11	5.11
Romania	0.62	0.55	0.40	0.40	3.06	2.25	2.50	2.50	1.89	1.24	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	-0.24	-19.35
Canada	4.70	4.27	4.07	4.07	2.88	2.98	3.24	3.24	13.53	12.71	13.20	13.20	0.00	0.00	0.49	3.83
Other W. Europe	0.23	0.21	0.23	0.23	4.33	4.62	4.19	4.19	0.97	0.95	0.94	0.94	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.53
Norway	0.18	0.16	0.18	0.18	3.77	3.92	3.53	3.53	0.66	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.48
Turkey	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.55	1.97	2.08	1.94	1.92	7.30	7.50	7.00	6.80	-0.20	-2.86	-0.70	-9.33
Australia	3.46	3.09	2.40	2.40	1.88	1.84	1.88	1.88	6.48	5.68	4.50	4.50	0.00	0.00	-1.18	-20.77
China	1.30	1.20	1.00	1.00	3.08	2.92	3.00	3.00	4.00	3.50	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-14.29
Morocco	2.00	2.43	2.10	2.10	0.66	0.81	0.67	0.67	1.32	1.97	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00	-0.57	-28.93
India	0.76	0.76	0.80	0.80	1.93	2.22	1.88	1.88	1.46	1.68	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	-0.18	-10.71
Others	8.85	9.26	8.62	8.40	1.24	1.21	1.09	1.09	10.95	11.17	9.38	9.13	-0.25	-2.71	-2.04	-18.26

TABLE 7
Oats Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.				Prel.				Prel.				From last month			
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00 Mar.	1999/00 Proj. Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00 Mar.	1999/00 Proj. Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00 Mar.	1999/00 Proj. Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	16.57	15.53	14.31	14.34	1.87	1.67	1.71	1.72	30.90	25.97	24.51	24.63	0.12	0.48	-1.35	-5.18
United States	1.14	1.12	0.99	0.99	2.13	2.16	2.14	2.14	2.43	2.41	2.12	2.12	0.00	0.00	-0.29	-11.91
Total Foreign	15.43	14.42	13.32	13.35	1.85	1.63	1.68	1.69	28.48	23.56	22.39	22.50	0.12	0.52	-1.06	-4.49
FSU-12	7.41	6.24	5.48	5.48	1.52	0.99	1.08	1.08	11.23	6.17	5.93	5.93	0.00	0.00	-0.24	-3.97
Russia	6.44	5.23	4.50	4.50	1.46	0.88	0.98	0.98	9.40	4.60	4.40	4.40	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-4.35
Ukraine	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	1.92	1.42	1.43	1.43	1.06	0.78	0.76	0.76	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-2.31
Belarus	0.34	0.30	0.30	0.30	2.06	2.33	1.83	1.83	0.70	0.70	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	-0.15	-21.43
Baltic States	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.15	2.13	2.11	1.77	1.77	0.34	0.32	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-15.77
Maj. Foreign Exporters	2.72	2.78	2.51	2.54	2.07	2.24	2.16	2.19	5.63	6.22	5.42	5.55	0.13	2.34	-0.68	-10.85
Canada	1.50	1.59	1.40	1.40	2.32	2.49	2.60	2.60	3.49	3.96	3.64	3.64	0.00	0.00	-0.32	-8.01
Australia	0.93	0.95	0.83	0.83	1.75	1.99	1.69	1.69	1.63	1.88	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00	-0.48	-25.53
Argentina	0.29	0.24	0.28	0.31	1.76	1.60	1.36	1.65	0.51	0.39	0.38	0.51	0.13	33.42	0.12	31.69
Other Foreign	5.14	5.25	5.18	5.18	2.20	2.07	2.08	2.08	11.28	10.85	10.77	10.76	-0.01	-0.09	-0.09	-0.81
China	0.45	0.55	0.50	0.50	0.89	1.18	1.20	1.20	0.40	0.65	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-7.69
European Union	2.00	1.97	1.93	1.94	3.33	3.13	3.17	3.17	6.67	6.15	6.14	6.13	-0.01	-0.16	-0.02	-0.36
France	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.12	4.24	4.73	4.67	4.51	0.56	0.66	0.56	0.55	-0.01	-1.79	-0.11	-16.41
Germany	0.31	0.30	0.28	0.28	5.13	4.22	4.82	4.82	1.60	1.28	1.35	1.35	0.00	0.00	0.07	5.55
Italy	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.14	2.06	2.00	2.42	2.42	0.31	0.28	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.07	23.57
Finland	0.37	0.39	0.39	0.39	3.37	2.52	2.54	2.54	1.24	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.54
Sweden	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.31	4.05	3.65	3.87	3.87	1.28	1.14	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.06	5.63
Eastern Europe	1.15	1.10	1.15	1.15	2.34	2.25	2.19	2.19	2.69	2.47	2.51	2.51	0.00	0.00	0.04	1.58
Czech Rep.	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.06	3.17	3.10	3.18	3.18	0.25	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-2.78
Poland	0.63	0.56	0.57	0.57	2.60	2.60	2.53	2.53	1.63	1.46	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.96
Yugoslavia	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1.88	1.80	1.77	1.77	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-4.17
Norway	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.10	3.90	4.23	4.25	4.25	0.36	0.39	0.41	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.02	4.83
Turkey	0.16	0.17	0.15	0.15	1.77	1.80	1.72	1.72	0.28	0.31	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-19.35
Others	1.29	1.37	1.35	1.35	0.69	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.88	0.88	0.86	0.86	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-1.60

TABLE 8
Rye Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.				Prel.				Prel.				From last month			
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	From last month	From last month	From last month	From last month
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	10.36	10.30	10.02	10.02	2.35	1.97	1.96	1.97	24.39	20.30	19.66	19.69	0.03	0.16	-0.61	-3.00
United States	0.13	0.17	0.16	0.16	1.62	1.83	1.80	1.80	0.21	0.31	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-9.71
Total Foreign	10.23	10.13	9.87	9.86	2.36	1.97	1.96	1.97	24.18	20.00	19.38	19.42	0.03	0.17	-0.58	-2.90
FSU-12	5.67	5.43	5.55	5.55	1.94	1.12	1.26	1.26	11.01	6.06	6.98	6.98	0.00	0.00	0.91	15.02
Russia	4.01	3.78	4.00	4.00	1.87	0.87	1.20	1.20	7.50	3.30	4.80	4.80	0.00	0.00	1.50	45.45
Ukraine	0.70	0.70	0.62	0.62	1.94	1.64	1.44	1.44	1.35	1.14	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	-0.24	-20.98
Belarus	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.90	2.36	1.78	1.39	1.39	2.10	1.60	1.25	1.25	0.00	0.00	-0.35	-21.88
Baltic States	0.24	0.25	0.22	0.22	2.08	2.08	1.96	1.96	0.49	0.53	0.42	0.42	0.00	0.00	-0.11	-20.42
Major Exporter																
Canada	0.16	0.20	0.17	0.17	1.98	1.95	2.29	2.29	0.32	0.40	0.39	0.39	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-2.76
Other Foreign	4.17	4.24	3.94	3.93	2.96	3.07	2.95	2.96	12.35	13.00	11.60	11.63	0.03	0.28	-1.37	-10.55
Eastern Europe	2.56	2.53	2.44	2.44	2.32	2.48	2.33	2.33	5.93	6.28	5.68	5.68	0.00	0.00	-0.60	-9.48
Hungary	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.04	2.00	2.08	2.00	2.00	0.14	0.13	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-37.98
Poland	2.30	2.29	2.24	2.24	2.31	2.47	2.31	2.31	5.30	5.66	5.18	5.18	0.00	0.00	-0.48	-8.53
Czech Rep.	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	3.41	3.63	3.64	3.64	0.26	0.26	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-23.37
European Union	1.32	1.43	1.18	1.16	4.55	4.45	4.67	4.78	6.02	6.35	5.53	5.52	-0.01	-0.13	-0.82	-12.99
Denmark	0.08	0.11	0.06	0.06	5.39	5.12	4.36	4.36	0.45	0.54	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.00	-0.30	-55.39
France	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	4.40	4.70	4.51	4.60	0.21	0.22	0.19	0.18	-0.00	-0.54	-0.03	-14.81
Germany	0.84	0.94	0.75	0.75	5.43	5.10	5.76	5.76	4.58	4.78	4.32	4.32	0.00	0.00	-0.46	-9.53
Spain	0.14	0.12	0.15	0.12	1.48	1.73	1.50	1.78	0.21	0.21	0.23	0.22	-0.01	-2.67	0.01	5.80
Austria	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	3.63	4.29	3.88	3.88	0.21	0.24	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-4.66
Sweden	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.02	5.17	4.60	5.42	5.42	0.15	0.16	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-19.25
Turkey	0.15	0.15	0.18	0.18	1.60	1.61	1.39	1.39	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.01	5.49
Others	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.16	1.18	1.07	1.04	1.13	0.17	0.15	0.14	0.18	0.04	27.66	0.03	23.29

TABLE 9
Sorghum Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	1997/98		1998/99		1997/98		1998/99		1997/98		1998/99		From last month		From last year	
	Prel.	1999/00 Proj.	Prel.	1999/00 Proj.	Prel.	1999/00 Proj.	Prel.	1999/00 Proj.	Prel.	1999/00 Proj.	Prel.	1999/00 Proj.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.				
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	41.53	40.59	41.16	40.92	1.42	1.46	1.46	1.44	58.93	59.21	60.27	58.89	-1.38	-2.29	-0.31	-0.53
United States	3.71	3.13	3.46	3.46	4.34	4.23	4.37	4.37	16.09	13.21	15.12	15.12	0.00	0.00	1.91	14.47
Total Foreign	37.82	37.46	37.71	37.46	1.13	1.23	1.20	1.17	42.84	46.00	45.16	43.78	-1.38	-3.06	-2.22	-4.83
India	10.99	10.25	10.40	10.40	0.73	0.85	0.77	0.77	7.98	8.71	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	-0.71	-8.15
China	1.08	0.97	1.10	0.95	3.36	4.22	4.09	4.16	3.64	4.09	4.50	3.95	-0.55	-12.22	-0.14	-3.35
Mexico	1.80	1.95	2.00	2.00	3.16	3.28	3.25	3.10	5.70	6.40	6.50	6.20	-0.30	-4.62	-0.20	-3.13
Nigeria	6.50	6.60	6.60	6.60	1.07	1.11	1.14	1.14	6.93	7.30	7.50	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.20	2.74
Sudan	5.70	6.00	5.80	5.80	0.56	0.75	0.60	0.60	3.20	4.50	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00	-1.00	-22.22
Argentina	0.79	0.74	0.80	0.72	4.80	4.38	4.38	4.44	3.77	3.22	3.50	3.20	-0.30	-8.57	-0.02	-0.68
Australia	0.57	0.68	0.56	0.56	1.90	2.47	2.50	2.50	1.08	1.66	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00	-0.26	-15.87
Ethiopia	1.50	1.45	1.60	1.60	1.33	0.83	1.06	0.91	2.00	1.20	1.70	1.45	-0.25	-14.71	0.25	20.83
Colombia	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	2.77	2.92	3.00	3.00	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-5.71
Venezuela	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.24	1.55	1.54	1.54	1.54	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Egypt	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	4.78	4.78	4.84	4.84	0.76	0.77	0.75	0.75	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-1.96
Yemen	0.38	0.38	0.40	0.40	0.96	1.00	0.90	0.90	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.36	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-4.00
Tanzania	0.63	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.80	0.85	0.80	0.80	0.50	0.43	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-5.88
Niger	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.30	0.47	0.40	0.40	0.43	0.70	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-14.29
South Africa	0.13	0.10	0.14	0.14	2.73	1.88	2.04	2.19	0.36	0.19	0.28	0.30	0.02	7.27	0.11	56.91
Thailand	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	5.74	5.74	5.70	5.68	0.94	1.00	0.95	0.96	5.37	5.72	5.44	5.44	-0.00	-0.02	-0.28	-4.95

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

April 2000

TABLE 10
Rice Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield (Rough)				Production (Milled)				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	151.27	152.35	153.78	153.86	3.80	3.84	3.85	3.87	386.83	393.81	398.32	400.74	2.41	0.61	6.93	1.76
United States	1.26	1.34	1.44	1.44	6.61	6.36	6.63	6.63	5.75	5.91	6.64	6.64	0.00	0.00	0.72	12.25
Total Foreign	150.01	151.01	152.34	152.42	3.77	3.82	3.82	3.84	381.08	387.90	391.69	394.10	2.41	0.62	6.20	1.60
Major Exporters	63.05	64.43	64.34	64.44	2.90	2.94	2.94	2.98	121.48	125.96	125.55	127.75	2.20	1.75	1.79	1.42
Vietnam	7.38	7.58	7.50	7.60	3.92	4.02	4.06	4.05	19.09	20.11	20.10	20.30	0.20	1.00	0.19	0.95
Thailand	9.94	9.83	9.84	9.84	2.36	2.34	2.44	2.44	15.51	15.18	15.85	15.85	0.00	0.00	0.67	4.41
India	43.42	44.60	44.50	44.50	2.85	2.89	2.85	2.92	82.54	86.00	84.50	86.50	2.00	2.37	0.50	0.58
Pakistan	2.32	2.42	2.50	2.50	2.81	2.89	3.06	3.06	4.33	4.67	5.10	5.10	0.00	0.00	0.43	9.11
Major Importers	21.98	22.56	22.74	22.69	3.50	3.63	3.64	3.65	49.26	52.44	52.96	53.02	0.06	0.11	0.58	1.11
Indonesia	11.73	11.85	11.70	11.65	4.20	4.29	4.34	4.36	31.12	32.10	32.10	32.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brazil	3.29	3.68	3.60	3.60	2.60	3.09	2.94	2.96	5.82	7.74	7.20	7.25	0.05	0.69	-0.49	-6.27
European Union	0.42	0.41	0.40	0.40	6.37	6.51	6.66	6.70	1.80	1.72	1.72	1.73	0.01	0.35	0.00	0.17
Iran	0.60	0.60	0.58	0.58	4.00	4.38	4.18	4.18	1.60	1.75	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.00	-0.15	-8.57
Philippines	3.50	3.63	4.00	4.00	2.85	2.83	2.98	2.98	6.49	6.67	7.75	7.75	0.00	0.00	1.08	16.12
Nigeria	1.65	1.65	1.66	1.66	1.87	1.92	2.01	2.01	1.85	1.90	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	5.26
Other Foreign	64.98	64.02	65.26	65.29	4.71	4.77	4.76	4.76	210.35	209.50	213.18	213.33	0.16	0.07	3.83	1.83
China	31.77	31.21	31.30	31.30	6.32	6.37	6.44	6.44	140.49	139.10	141.00	141.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.37
Burma	5.60	5.60	5.80	5.80	2.74	2.86	2.84	2.84	8.90	9.30	9.55	9.55	0.00	0.00	0.25	2.69
Bangladesh	10.26	9.69	10.50	10.50	2.76	3.07	2.89	2.89	18.86	19.85	20.25	20.25	0.00	0.00	0.40	1.99
Japan	1.95	1.80	1.78	1.79	6.42	6.22	6.44	6.41	9.12	8.15	8.35	8.35	0.00	0.00	0.20	2.40
South Korea	1.05	1.06	1.06	1.07	7.00	6.42	6.69	6.58	5.45	5.10	5.24	5.26	0.02	0.38	0.16	3.20
Egypt	0.63	0.50	0.63	0.63	8.57	8.33	8.62	8.62	3.51	2.65	3.53	3.53	0.00	0.00	0.88	33.38
Taiwan	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	5.61	5.19	5.46	5.46	1.46	1.31	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.09	6.79
FSU-12	0.44	0.44	0.45	0.47	2.63	2.76	2.79	2.67	0.75	0.78	0.82	0.82	0.00	0.12	0.04	4.98
Russia	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.17	2.19	2.84	2.97	2.62	0.22	0.27	0.29	0.29	0.00	0.35	0.02	7.41
Australia	0.14	0.15	0.13	0.13	9.44	9.14	8.61	8.61	0.95	0.99	0.80	0.80	0.00	0.00	-0.19	-19.52
Others	12.78	13.20	13.24	13.24	2.51	2.59	2.58	2.60	20.85	22.26	22.23	22.37	0.13	0.61	0.11	0.50

TABLE 11

Total Oilseed Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production							
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year					
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent				
World Total 1/ Total Foreign 1/ Copra Palm Kernel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	287.83	294.56	295.75	297.54	1.78	0.60	2.98	1.01
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	204.74	210.19	213.65	215.45	1.80	0.84	5.26	2.50	1.80	0.84	
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.45	4.46	5.09	5.08	-0.01	-0.22	0.62	13.84	-0.01	-0.22	
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.12	5.69	6.22	6.29	0.06	1.03	0.59	10.42	0.06	1.03	
Major Oilseeds 2/ United States 2/	166.34	173.50	175.08	175.43	1.67	1.64	1.62	1.63	1.63	277.27	284.41	284.45	286.17	1.73	0.61	1.77	0.62	1.73	0.61	
	35.35	35.28	37.14	37.14	2.35	2.39	2.21	2.21	2.21	83.10	84.37	82.10	82.08	-0.02	-0.02	-2.28	-2.71	-0.02	-0.02	
Foreign Oilseeds 2/ South America	130.99	138.22	137.94	138.29	1.48	1.45	1.47	1.48	1.48	194.17	200.04	202.35	204.09	1.75	0.86	4.05	2.03	1.75	0.86	
	27.93	29.20	28.49	28.57	2.30	2.21	2.21	2.23	2.23	64.32	64.40	62.94	63.84	0.90	1.42	-0.57	-0.88	0.90	1.42	
Brazil	13.94	13.76	13.97	13.97	2.39	2.35	2.26	2.26	2.26	33.39	32.30	31.63	31.63	0.00	0.00	-0.67	-2.08	0.00	0.00	
Argentina	11.53	13.16	12.20	12.35	2.27	2.10	2.22	2.27	2.27	26.17	27.69	27.08	28.08	1.00	3.69	0.39	1.41	1.00	3.69	
Paraguay	1.47	1.43	1.36	1.36	2.18	2.26	2.01	2.01	2.01	3.20	3.23	2.72	2.72	0.00	0.00	-0.51	-15.78	0.00	0.00	
China	23.75	24.25	24.05	24.01	1.83	1.83	1.84	1.86	1.86	43.41	44.37	44.30	44.61	0.31	0.70	0.24	0.55	0.31	0.70	
India	30.50	32.55	30.90	30.90	0.80	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	24.25	24.95	23.70	23.40	-0.30	-1.27	-1.55	-6.22	-0.30	-1.27	
European Union	6.10	6.41	6.66	6.66	2.46	2.37	2.48	2.49	2.49	14.97	15.20	16.50	16.58	0.08	0.49	1.39	9.11	0.08	0.49	
France	1.96	2.06	2.29	2.29	2.86	2.75	2.88	2.88	2.88	5.62	5.66	6.57	6.57	0.00	0.00	0.91	16.08	0.00	0.00	
Italy	0.75	0.79	0.57	0.57	2.47	2.07	2.39	2.39	2.39	1.84	1.64	1.36	1.36	0.00	0.00	-0.28	-17.11	0.00	0.00	
Germany	0.95	1.04	1.24	1.24	3.11	3.33	3.43	3.43	3.43	2.96	3.48	4.24	4.24	0.00	0.00	0.76	21.92	0.00	0.00	
Spain	1.14	1.15	1.09	1.09	1.43	1.16	0.80	0.80	0.80	1.62	1.34	0.87	0.87	0.00	0.00	-0.47	-34.91	0.00	0.00	
United Kingdom	0.47	0.53	0.56	0.56	3.23	2.97	3.21	3.21	3.21	1.52	1.58	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.22	14.29	0.00	0.00	
FSU-12	9.14	10.26	11.95	11.95	0.98	0.88	0.92	0.92	0.92	8.98	8.99	11.04	11.04	0.00	0.00	2.05	22.82	0.00	0.00	
Russia	4.10	4.69	5.92	5.92	0.78	0.72	0.78	0.78	0.78	3.18	3.40	4.59	4.59	0.00	0.00	1.19	35.00	0.00	0.00	
Ukraine	2.06	2.52	3.01	3.01	1.15	0.94	0.96	0.96	0.96	2.37	2.37	2.90	2.90	0.00	0.00	0.53	22.54	0.00	0.00	
Uzbekistan	1.48	1.49	1.50	1.50	1.55	1.35	1.53	1.53	1.53	2.30	2.00	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.30	15.00	0.00	0.00	
Turkmenistan	0.45	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.82	0.87	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.37	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.20	0.00	0.00	
Canada	5.99	6.47	6.64	6.64	1.54	1.61	1.76	1.76	1.76	9.20	10.44	11.69	11.69	0.00	0.00	1.25	11.99	0.00	0.00	
Indonesia	1.76	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.31	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Pakistan	3.52	3.47	3.59	3.59	1.04	1.06	1.15	1.16	1.16	3.66	3.68	4.14	4.16	0.02	0.41	0.48	13.01	0.02	0.41	
Eastern Europe	2.86	3.22	3.87	3.85	1.48	1.63	1.70	1.62	1.62	4.25	5.25	6.57	6.24	-0.33	-4.96	0.99	18.83	-0.33	-4.96	
Poland	0.32	0.47	0.54	0.55	1.88	2.36	2.21	2.02	2.02	0.60	1.10	1.20	1.10	-0.10	-8.42	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-8.42	
Romania	0.85	0.97	1.16	1.13	1.17	1.22	1.29	1.12	1.12	0.99	1.18	1.49	1.27	-0.23	-15.08	0.09	7.19	-0.23	-15.08	
Hungary	0.55	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.31	1.65	1.63	1.63	1.63	0.72	0.83	1.23	1.23	0.00	0.00	0.39	47.41	0.00	0.00	
Turkey	1.31	1.34	1.33	1.33	1.50	1.53	1.61	1.65	1.65	1.97	2.05	2.15	2.21	0.06	2.80	0.16	7.82	0.06	2.80	
Philippines	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.87	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Mexico	0.43	0.41	0.35	0.35	1.56	1.48	1.35	1.35	1.35	0.67	0.61	0.47	0.47	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-21.91	0.00	0.00	
Others	17.64	18.84	18.30	18.64	0.91	0.94	0.90	0.94	0.94	16.15	17.77	16.50	17.51	1.01	6.11	-0.25	-1.43	1.01	6.11	

1/ Major oilseeds plus copra and palm kernel. 2/ Individual countries and regions include soybean, cottonseed, peanut (inshell), sunflowerseed, and rapeseed.

April 2000

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 12
Soybean Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	68.86	71.42	71.06	71.52	2.29	2.23	2.16	2.16	158.02	159.32	153.51	154.66	1.14	0.75	4.67	-2.93
United States	27.97	28.51	29.33	29.33	2.62	2.62	2.45	2.45	73.18	74.60	71.93	71.93	0.00	0.00	-2.67	-3.58
Total Foreign	40.89	42.92	41.73	42.19	2.07	1.97	1.96	1.96	84.84	84.72	81.58	82.73	1.14	1.40	-1.99	-2.35
Major Exporters																
Brazil	21.15	22.27	22.40	22.55	2.60	2.43	2.37	2.39	54.99	54.20	53.00	54.00	1.00	1.89	-0.20	-0.37
Argentina	13.00	12.90	13.10	13.10	2.50	2.43	2.33	2.33	32.50	31.30	30.50	30.50	0.00	0.00	-0.80	-2.56
Paraguay	6.95	8.17	8.20	8.35	2.80	2.44	2.44	2.51	19.50	19.90	20.00	21.00	1.00	5.00	1.10	5.53
	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.10	2.49	2.50	2.27	2.27	2.99	3.00	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-16.67
Other Foreign																
China	19.74	20.65	19.33	19.64	1.51	1.48	1.48	1.46	29.85	30.52	28.58	28.73	0.14	0.50	-1.79	-5.88
India	8.35	8.50	7.80	8.18	1.76	1.78	1.79	1.75	14.73	15.15	14.00	14.29	0.29	2.07	-0.86	-5.69
Canada	5.60	6.35	5.80	5.80	0.96	0.94	0.90	0.90	5.35	6.00	5.20	5.20	0.00	0.00	-0.80	-13.33
Indonesia	1.06	0.98	1.00	1.00	2.58	2.79	2.77	2.77	2.74	2.74	2.77	2.77	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.06
Eastern Europe	1.09	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.20	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.31	1.30	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Union	0.16	0.30	0.25	0.23	2.22	1.71	1.99	2.06	0.36	0.51	0.51	0.48	-0.03	-4.94	-0.03	-6.42
FSU-12	0.46	0.52	0.36	0.36	3.44	2.96	3.13	3.13	1.57	1.54	1.14	1.14	0.00	0.00	-0.40	-25.86
Russia	0.42	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.31	0.34	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58
Ukraine	0.40	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.69	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.28	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mexico	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.03	1.29	1.16	1.12	1.12	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.56
Thailand	0.13	0.09	0.10	0.10	1.48	1.61	1.37	1.37	0.19	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-9.09
North Korea	0.24	0.23	0.23	0.23	1.43	1.46	1.39	1.39	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-4.48
Japan	0.31	0.30	0.34	0.30	1.18	1.13	1.32	1.13	0.36	0.34	0.45	0.34	-0.11	-24.44	0.00	0.00
Bolivia	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.11	1.75	1.45	1.55	1.55	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.01	7.59
South Korea	0.54	0.40	0.50	0.50	2.00	1.55	1.90	1.90	1.07	0.62	0.95	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.33	53.23
Colombia	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.09	1.56	1.43	1.33	1.33	0.16	0.14	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-17.14
Others	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	2.17	2.17	2.19	2.19	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.01	7.94
	1.18	1.20	1.16	1.16	0.98	0.95	0.96	0.96	1.16	1.14	1.12	1.11	-0.01	-0.98	-0.03	-2.54

TABLE 13
Cottonseed Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	33.68	32.83	32.14	32.14	1.04	1.01	1.04	1.05	35.06	33.12	33.57	33.60	0.02	0.07	0.48	1.45
United States	5.43	4.32	5.42	5.42	1.16	1.13	1.08	1.08	6.29	4.87	5.83	5.83	0.00	0.00	0.96	19.70
Total Foreign	28.26	28.51	26.72	26.72	1.02	0.99	1.04	1.04	28.77	28.25	27.75	27.77	0.02	0.09	-0.48	-1.70
China	4.49	4.46	3.75	3.75	1.84	1.82	1.84	1.84	8.28	8.10	6.90	6.90	0.00	0.00	-1.20	-14.81
FSU-12	2.47	2.50	2.47	2.47	1.24	1.13	1.27	1.27	3.07	2.83	3.14	3.14	0.00	0.00	0.31	10.97
Uzbekistan	1.48	1.49	1.50	1.50	1.55	1.35	1.53	1.53	2.30	2.00	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.30	15.00
Turkmenistan	0.45	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.82	0.87	0.88	0.88	0.37	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.20
India	8.90	9.30	8.70	8.70	0.59	0.58	0.63	0.63	5.24	5.40	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.10	1.80
Pakistan	2.96	2.92	3.00	3.00	1.06	1.07	1.18	1.19	3.12	3.13	3.55	3.57	0.02	0.56	0.44	13.91
Brazil	0.77	0.69	0.70	0.70	0.85	1.14	1.34	1.34	0.65	0.78	0.93	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.15	18.93
Turkey	0.72	0.76	0.73	0.73	1.65	1.66	1.78	1.73	1.19	1.26	1.30	1.26	-0.04	-3.08	0.00	0.00
African Franc Zone	2.24	2.35	2.39	2.39	0.72	0.65	0.63	0.63	1.61	1.51	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.27	-0.01	-0.73
Australia	0.44	0.56	0.45	0.45	2.15	1.76	2.18	2.18	0.94	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-1.01
Egypt	0.37	0.28	0.28	0.28	1.28	1.36	1.35	1.35	0.48	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-2.63
Argentina	0.85	0.65	0.33	0.33	0.64	0.54	0.71	0.71	0.55	0.35	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	-0.12	-34.29
Paraguay	0.20	0.14	0.18	0.18	0.60	0.71	0.63	0.63	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.01	10.00
Greece	0.39	0.41	0.43	0.43	1.44	1.39	1.47	1.52	0.56	0.57	0.63	0.66	0.02	3.97	0.08	14.31
Syria	0.25	0.27	0.24	0.24	2.78	2.50	2.67	2.67	0.70	0.68	0.65	0.65	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-4.27
Mexico	0.20	0.23	0.16	0.16	1.67	1.48	1.34	1.34	0.33	0.34	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-36.87
Colombia	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	1.31	1.35	1.13	1.13	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-8.11
Sudan	0.27	0.15	0.23	0.23	0.79	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.21	0.13	0.19	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.06	50.00
Others	2.68	2.79	2.65	2.65	0.61	0.58	0.56	0.57	1.64	1.62	1.49	1.50	0.02	1.01	-0.12	-7.17

TABLE 14
Peanut Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	20.47	21.61	21.13	21.51	1.35	1.38	1.32	1.33	27.53	29.91	27.91	28.69	0.78	2.80	-1.22	-4.07
United States	0.57	0.59	0.58	0.58	2.81	3.03	3.04	3.01	1.61	1.80	1.76	1.74	-0.02	-1.08	-0.06	-3.39
Total Foreign	19.89	21.01	20.55	20.93	1.30	1.34	1.27	1.29	25.93	28.11	26.16	26.96	0.80	3.06	-1.16	-4.11
China	3.72	4.04	4.30	4.30	2.59	2.94	2.86	2.86	9.65	11.89	12.30	12.30	0.00	0.00	0.41	3.48
India	7.20	8.10	7.80	7.80	1.05	0.92	0.77	0.73	7.58	7.45	6.00	5.70	-0.30	-5.00	-1.75	-23.49
Indonesia	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Senegal	0.73	0.52	0.62	0.60	0.70	1.04	0.97	1.08	0.51	0.54	0.60	0.65	0.05	8.33	0.11	20.15
Burma	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	1.17	1.17	1.17	1.17	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sudan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zaire	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Argentina	0.39	0.32	0.22	0.22	1.60	1.06	2.05	2.05	0.63	0.34	0.45	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.11	32.35
Nigeria	1.20	1.19	0.80	1.20	1.04	1.20	0.50	1.21	1.25	1.43	0.40	1.45	1.05	262.50	0.02	1.40
Vietnam	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.41	1.40	1.40	1.40	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.07	1.64	1.53	1.57	1.57	0.10	0.15	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-24.14
Thailand	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.48	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Burkina Faso	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brazil	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.09	1.94	1.89	1.67	1.67	0.19	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-11.76
Central African Rep.	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.97	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cameroon	0.32	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.28	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.09	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cote d'Ivoire	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1.02	1.01	1.01	1.01	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mexico	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1.49	1.41	1.40	1.40	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.01	4.17
Gambia	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	2.80	2.86	2.85	2.85	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	2.35	2.40	2.40	2.40	-0.00	-0.00	-0.01	-0.33

TABLE 15
Sunflowerseed Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	19.56	22.09	22.98	22.90	1.19	1.18	1.17	1.17	23.31	26.16	26.90	26.70	-0.20	-0.74	0.54	2.08
United States	1.13	1.41	1.39	1.39	1.48	1.69	1.41	1.41	1.67	2.39	1.97	1.97	0.00	0.00	-0.42	-17.68
Total Foreign	18.43	20.67	21.59	21.51	1.17	1.15	1.15	1.15	21.64	23.77	24.93	24.74	-0.20	-0.79	0.97	4.07
FSU-12	5.98	6.93	8.52	8.52	0.90	0.80	0.84	0.84	5.40	5.56	7.18	7.18	0.00	0.00	1.62	29.14
Russia	3.58	4.10	5.30	5.30	0.79	0.73	0.78	0.78	2.83	3.00	4.15	4.15	0.00	0.00	1.15	38.33
Ukraine	2.00	2.40	2.78	2.78	1.15	0.94	0.98	0.98	2.31	2.27	2.72	2.72	0.00	0.00	0.45	20.04
Argentina	3.33	4.02	3.45	3.45	1.65	1.76	1.86	1.86	5.50	7.10	6.40	6.40	0.00	0.00	-0.70	-9.86
European Union	2.33	2.26	2.17	2.17	1.73	1.51	1.50	1.50	4.04	3.41	3.25	3.25	0.00	0.00	-0.16	-4.72
France	0.90	0.81	0.83	0.83	2.17	2.09	2.30	2.30	1.94	1.68	1.91	1.91	0.00	0.00	0.23	13.69
Spain	0.97	0.99	0.92	0.92	1.42	1.11	0.65	0.65	1.37	1.10	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-45.31
Italy	0.30	0.31	0.26	0.26	1.67	1.31	2.01	2.01	0.51	0.41	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.11	26.23
Eastern Europe	1.93	2.04	2.37	2.37	1.20	1.34	1.38	1.30	2.31	2.72	3.28	3.08	-0.20	-6.11	0.35	13.05
Hungary	0.45	0.43	0.53	0.53	1.22	1.65	1.55	1.55	0.55	0.71	0.82	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.11	16.15
Romania	0.78	0.82	1.05	1.04	1.10	1.18	1.24	1.05	0.86	0.97	1.30	1.10	-0.20	-15.38	0.13	13.40
Yugoslavia	0.19	0.21	0.21	0.21	1.64	1.95	1.95	1.95	0.32	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bulgaria	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.11	1.00	1.20	1.20	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.10	20.00
Czech Rep.	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	2.09	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
China	0.72	0.72	0.80	0.80	1.64	1.29	1.63	1.63	1.18	0.93	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.37	39.78
India	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	0.55	0.55	0.59	0.59	1.15	1.20	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.10	8.33
Turkey	0.52	0.52	0.54	0.54	1.25	1.25	1.30	1.48	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.80	0.10	14.29	0.15	23.08
South Africa	0.51	0.83	0.39	0.39	1.10	1.33	1.17	1.17	0.56	1.10	0.45	0.45	0.00	0.00	-0.65	-59.09
Australia	0.09	0.17	0.12	0.12	1.07	1.25	1.13	1.13	0.10	0.21	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-35.41
Burma	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.80	0.87	0.92	0.84	0.83	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.67	0.79	0.85	0.75	-0.10	-11.60	-0.04	-5.56

TABLE 16
Rapeseed Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.				Prel.				Prel.				From last month			
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	23.77	25.55	27.78	27.37	1.40	1.41	1.53	1.55	33.35	35.90	42.55	42.53	-0.02	-0.05	6.63	18.46
United States	0.26	0.44	0.42	0.42	1.39	1.62	1.46	1.46	0.36	0.71	0.62	0.62	0.00	0.00	-0.09	-12.54
Total Foreign	23.51	25.11	27.35	26.94	1.40	1.40	1.53	1.56	33.00	35.19	41.93	41.91	-0.02	-0.05	6.71	19.08
India	6.70	6.60	6.40	6.40	0.74	0.74	0.89	0.89	4.94	4.90	5.70	5.70	0.00	0.00	0.80	16.33
China	6.48	6.53	7.40	6.98	1.48	1.27	1.32	1.41	9.58	8.30	9.80	9.82	0.02	0.20	1.52	18.31
Canada	4.88	5.42	5.56	5.56	1.31	1.40	1.58	1.58	6.39	7.59	8.80	8.80	0.00	0.00	1.21	15.95
European Union	2.81	3.13	3.58	3.59	3.07	3.05	3.15	3.16	8.64	9.53	11.30	11.35	0.06	0.50	1.82	19.11
France	0.97	1.14	1.36	1.36	3.51	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.40	3.70	4.40	4.40	0.00	0.00	0.70	18.92
Germany	0.91	1.01	1.20	1.20	3.14	3.36	3.46	3.46	2.87	3.39	4.15	4.15	0.00	0.00	0.76	22.49
United Kingdom	0.47	0.53	0.56	0.56	3.23	2.97	3.21	3.21	1.52	1.58	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.22	14.29
Denmark	0.10	0.11	0.13	0.13	2.82	3.21	3.00	3.00	0.29	0.36	0.39	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.03	8.64
Sweden	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.08	1.90	2.25	2.31	2.31	0.12	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.06	45.16
Eastern Europe	0.76	0.87	1.23	1.23	2.08	2.32	2.26	2.17	1.57	2.01	2.78	2.68	-0.10	-3.64	0.67	33.18
Poland	0.32	0.47	0.54	0.55	1.88	2.36	2.21	2.02	0.60	1.10	1.20	1.10	-0.10	-8.42	0.00	0.00
Czech Rep.	0.23	0.27	0.35	0.35	2.52	2.57	2.67	2.67	0.58	0.68	0.94	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.26	37.50
Australia	0.69	1.27	1.75	1.75	1.26	1.39	1.34	1.34	0.86	1.76	2.35	2.35	0.00	0.00	0.59	33.45
FSU-12	0.27	0.35	0.49	0.49	0.77	0.73	0.77	0.77	0.21	0.26	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.12	46.09
Russia	0.12	0.15	0.18	0.18	0.62	0.67	0.80	0.80	0.07	0.10	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.04	40.00
Pakistan	0.35	0.34	0.33	0.33	0.81	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.71	-0.01	-3.42
Bangladesh	0.34	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.25	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.13	1.15	1.15	1.15	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TABLE 17
Copra, Palm Kernel, and Palm Oil Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Production				Change in Production			
	1997/98	Prel. 1998/99	1999/00 Proj. Mar.	Apr.	From last month		From last year	
	Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
COPRA								
World	5.45	4.46	5.09	5.08	-0.01	-0.22	0.62	13.84
Philippines	2.37	1.35	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.45	33.33
Indonesia	1.29	1.30	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	0.15	11.54
India	0.68	0.70	0.73	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.03	3.57
Mexico	0.20	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-4.25
Sri Lanka	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vietnam	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaysia	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	-0.01	-29.17	0.00	6.25
Others	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	-0.00	-0.65	0.00	0.00
PALM KERNEL								
World	5.12	5.69	6.22	6.29	0.06	1.03	0.59	10.42
Malaysia	2.50	2.79	3.10	3.16	0.06	1.94	0.37	13.22
Indonesia	1.48	1.71	1.89	1.89	0.00	0.00	0.18	10.53
Nigeria	0.33	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cote d'Ivoire	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.56
Colombia	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.09
Thailand	0.11	0.09	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.02	25.00
Zaire	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.33
Ecuador	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-2.38
Others	0.49	0.51	0.52	0.53	0.00	0.77	0.02	2.94
PALM OIL								
World	17.03	19.30	20.99	21.18	0.19	0.91	1.88	9.73
Malaysia	8.51	9.76	10.60	10.80	0.20	1.89	1.04	10.68
Indonesia	5.00	5.80	6.40	6.40	0.00	0.00	0.60	10.34
Nigeria	0.65	0.74	0.76	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.02	2.70
Cote d'Ivoire	0.30	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.64
Colombia	0.42	0.49	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.04
Thailand	0.47	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.10	25.00
Zaire	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.01	7.41
Ecuador	0.23	0.25	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.03	12.24
Others	1.33	1.43	1.50	1.49	-0.01	-0.60	0.06	4.21

April 2000

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 18
Cotton Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change In Production			
	Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		Prel.		1999/00 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	1997/98	1998/99	Mar.	Apr.	MBales	Percent	MBales	Percent
	Million hectares				Kilograms per hectare				Million 480 lb. bales				MBales	Percent	MBales	Percent
World	33.73	32.86	32.19	32.19	591	560	588	588	91.63	84.54	86.87	86.99	0.12	0.14	2.46	2.91
United States	5.43	4.32	5.42	5.42	754	701	682	682	18.79	13.92	16.95	16.95	0.00	0.00	3.04	21.81
Total Foreign	28.31	28.53	26.77	26.77	560	539	569	570	72.84	70.62	69.92	70.04	0.12	0.17	-0.58	-0.82
Major Exporters	15.78	15.43	14.48	14.48	716	697	739	739	51.85	49.38	49.12	49.12	0.00	0.00	-0.26	-0.53
China	4.49	4.46	3.75	3.75	1,023	1,011	1,022	1,022	21.10	20.70	17.60	17.60	0.00	0.00	-3.10	-14.98
Pakistan	2.96	2.90	3.00	3.00	528	473	595	595	7.18	6.30	8.20	8.20	0.00	0.00	1.90	30.16
Sudan	0.27	0.15	0.23	0.23	329	363	363	363	0.40	0.25	0.38	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.13	50.00
Turkey	0.72	0.76	0.73	0.73	1,101	1,107	1,178	1,178	3.65	3.85	3.95	3.95	0.00	0.00	0.10	2.60
FSU-12	2.47	2.50	2.47	2.47	626	575	655	655	7.11	6.60	7.41	7.41	0.00	0.00	0.81	12.27
Uzbekistan	1.48	1.49	1.50	1.50	768	674	769	769	5.23	4.60	5.30	5.30	0.00	0.00	0.70	15.22
Turkmenistan	0.45	0.48	0.48	0.48	411	435	481	481	0.85	0.95	1.05	1.05	0.00	0.00	0.10	10.53
Other	0.54	0.54	0.49	0.49	416	423	471	471	1.03	1.05	1.06	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.95
Egypt	0.37	0.28	0.28	0.28	892	816	831	831	1.53	1.05	1.05	1.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
African Franc Zone	2.24	2.35	2.39	2.39	420	376	369	369	4.32	4.05	4.06	4.06	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.12
Southern Hemisphere	2.25	2.04	1.65	1.65	634	703	857	857	6.56	6.58	6.48	6.48	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-1.58
Argentina	0.85	0.65	0.33	0.33	360	301	368	368	1.41	0.90	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	-0.35	-38.89
Australia	0.44	0.56	0.45	0.45	1,521	1,274	1,500	1,500	3.06	3.29	3.10	3.10	0.00	0.00	-0.19	-5.75
Brazil	0.77	0.69	0.70	0.70	497	667	783	783	1.75	2.10	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.40	19.05
Paraguay	0.20	0.14	0.18	0.18	381	451	404	404	0.35	0.29	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.04	12.07
Major Importers	0.55	0.56	0.60	0.60	918	897	923	952	2.32	2.32	2.53	2.61	0.08	3.16	0.29	12.59
Other Foreign	11.98	12.54	11.70	11.70	339	328	340	341	18.67	18.92	18.27	18.31	0.04	0.22	-0.60	-3.20
India	8.90	9.30	8.70	8.70	302	298	320	320	12.34	12.73	12.80	12.80	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.57
Others	3.08	3.24	3.00	3.00	448	416	398	401	6.33	6.19	5.47	5.51	0.04	0.73	-0.68	-10.95

TABLE 19

The table below presents a 18-year record of the differences between the April projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the April projection and the final estimate have averaged 2.3 million tons (0.5 percent) and ranged from -6.8 to 6.5 million tons. The April projection has been below the final 11 times and above the final 7 times.

RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 1998/99 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below Final	Above Final
	Average	Average	Difference			
	Percent	---Million metric tons---			Number of years 2/	
WHEAT						
World	0.5	2.3	-6.8	6.5	11	7
U.S.	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	8	4
Foreign	0.5	2.4	-6.8	6.5	11	7
COARSE GRAINS 3/						
World	0.7	5.7	-14.7	13.3	13	5
U.S.	0.1	0.1	-0.2	1.3	9	4
Foreign	1.0	5.8	-14.7	13.3	13	5
RICE (Milled)						
World	1.3	4.4	-13.3	10.8	15	3
U.S.	0.9	0.0	-0.2	0.1	4	2
Foreign	1.3	4.4	-13.3	10.8	15	3
SOYBEANS						
World	1.5	1.7	-4.0	2.3	11	7
U.S.	1.1	0.6	-1.6	1.8	7	8
Foreign	2.3	1.3	-4.6	2.3	14	4
			---Million 480-lb. bales---			
COTTON						
World	1.0	0.9	-3.0	0.8	13	4
U.S.	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	6	7
Foreign	1.2	0.9	-3.0	0.8	12	5
UNITED STATES			-----Million bushels-----			
CORN	0.1	3	-8	38	1	1
SORGHUM	0.1	0	0	4	0	2
BARLEY	0.3	2	-3	11	8	2
OATS	0.1	0	-2	1	3	2

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-1998/99 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 18 if projection was the same as the final.

3/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.

April 2000

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

April 11, 2000

1 - UNITED STATES

During March, frequent, generally beneficial precipitation fell in key hard red winter wheat areas of the central and southern Plains. The precipitation arrived too late on the southern High Plains to provide significant relief to dryland winter wheat, but boosted summer crop pre-planting moisture. Meanwhile, areas from eastern Texas into the Southeast received frequent showers, benefiting pastures and newly planted summer crops, but failing to significantly dent long-term drought. Although occasional light precipitation dampened soft red winter wheat areas of the southern and eastern Corn Belt, mostly dry weather across the remainder of the Corn Belt left topsoil moisture limited and caused further long-term drought intensification. In California, mild and favorably dry weather benefited spring fieldwork. Near- to above-normal temperatures prompted winter wheat to break dormancy across the North and promoted rapid crop development elsewhere.

2 - SOUTH AMERICA

In northern soybean growing areas of southern Brazil, favorably drier weather prevailed during late March and early April, helping soybean harvesting. Heavy rain slowed early soybean harvesting in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil during late March, but benefited late-maturing soybeans. In central Argentina, slightly below-normal rainfall provided sufficient moisture for second-crop soybeans, but did not hamper corn and first-crop soybean harvesting.

3 - EUROPE

During March, sporadic showers favored spring grain planting and early development in England and France. In Spain, Portugal, and Italy, recent rainfall improved soil moisture, but more rain is needed for mostly jointing winter grains. Drier-than-normal weather persisted across southeastern Europe, further reducing moisture supplies as winter grains broke dormancy. Abundant precipitation delayed fieldwork from Germany and Austria eastward.

4 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

Drought conditions continued through March in Morocco and Algeria, producing severe stress on reproductive winter grains and reducing yield prospects. In Tunisia, consistent, light rain early in the growing season gave way to warm, dry conditions, leading to increased stress on winter grains.

7 - EASTERN ASIA

In the North China Plain, above-normal March temperatures favored greening wheat, but increased irrigation demands. Spring wheat planting began across southern and central Manchuria in late March. Across central China (Hubei, southern Anhui, and Jiangsu), below-normal March rainfall reduced moisture for vegetative winter wheat and rapeseed. Near- to above-normal March rainfall boosted moisture supplies for winter crops and early rice transplanting across Sichuan and interior southern China. Mostly below-normal rainfall prevailed across the extreme southern coastal provinces.

8 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

In March, near to slightly below-normal rainfall across Java, Indonesia favored rice maturation and harvesting, while below-normal rainfall reduced moisture supplies for oil palm across interior Sumatra. Near-normal rainfall maintained moisture supplies for oil palm across peninsular Malaysia. Above- to much-above-normal rainfall slowed fieldwork and caused local flooding across peninsular Thailand and most of the Philippines. March showers increased moisture supplies for winter rice in northern and southern Vietnam.

9 - SOUTH AFRICA

Above-normal rainfall benefited filling corn and sugarcane, and increased topsoil moisture for winter wheat planting, which is typically in full swing during May.

10 - AUSTRALIA

Showery weather slowed drydown and harvesting of cotton and sorghum in New South Wales and sections of southern Queensland. Along the coast, tropical storm activity resulted in some flooding and crop damage in the northern sugarcane areas. In Western Australia, unseasonably heavy rainfall increased moisture reserves for the upcoming winter grain crop.

USDA/OCE - World Agricultural Outlook Board
Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

(More details are available in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin. Subscription information may be obtained by calling (202) 720-7917.)

5 - FSU-WESTERN

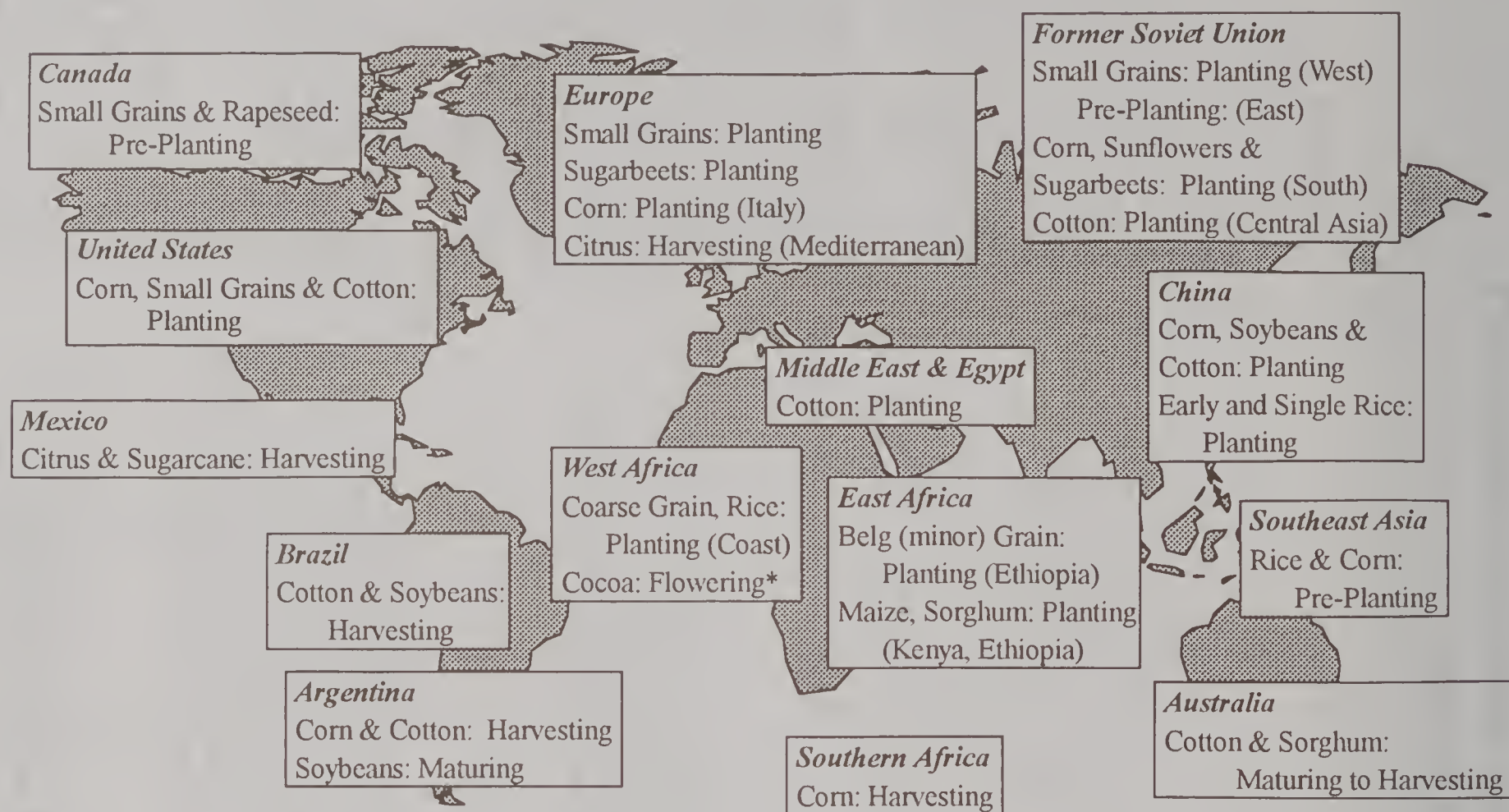
In March, above-normal precipitation in Ukraine and southern Russia increased moisture reserves but hampered early-spring fieldwork. Since April 1, a strong warming trend raised soil temperatures to favorable levels for spring grain emergence in Ukraine and southern Russia and brought overwintering crops out of dormancy. Winter grains remained dormant in northern Russia, although mild weather melted snow cover.

6 - SOUTH ASIA

During March, near-normal temperatures aided winter wheat and oilseed development across Pakistan and India. Scattered, mostly light showers benefited crops in north-central India. Locally heavy rain in Bangladesh increased irrigation reserves for rice.

April Normal Crop Calendar

Summer crops



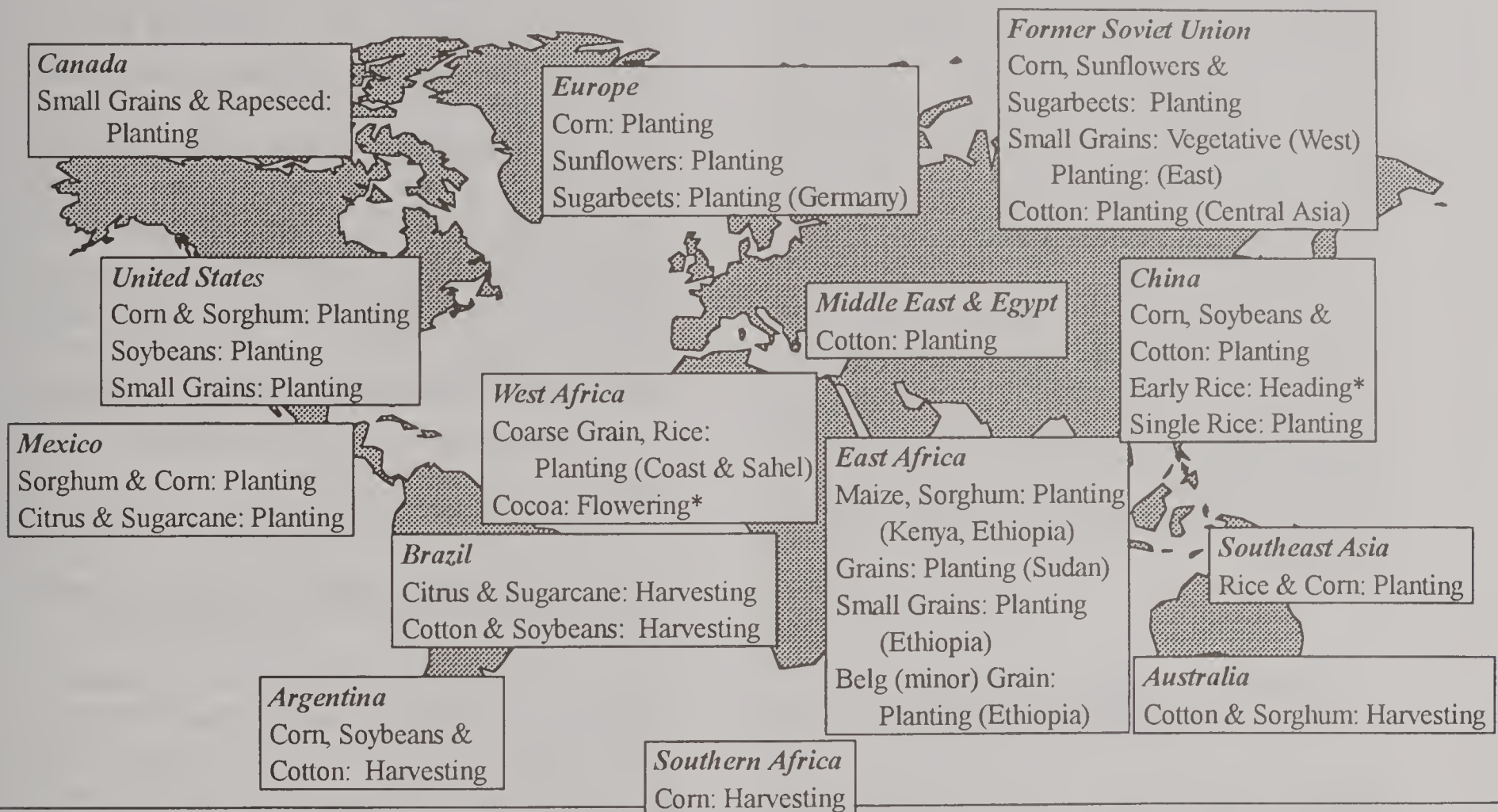
Winter crops



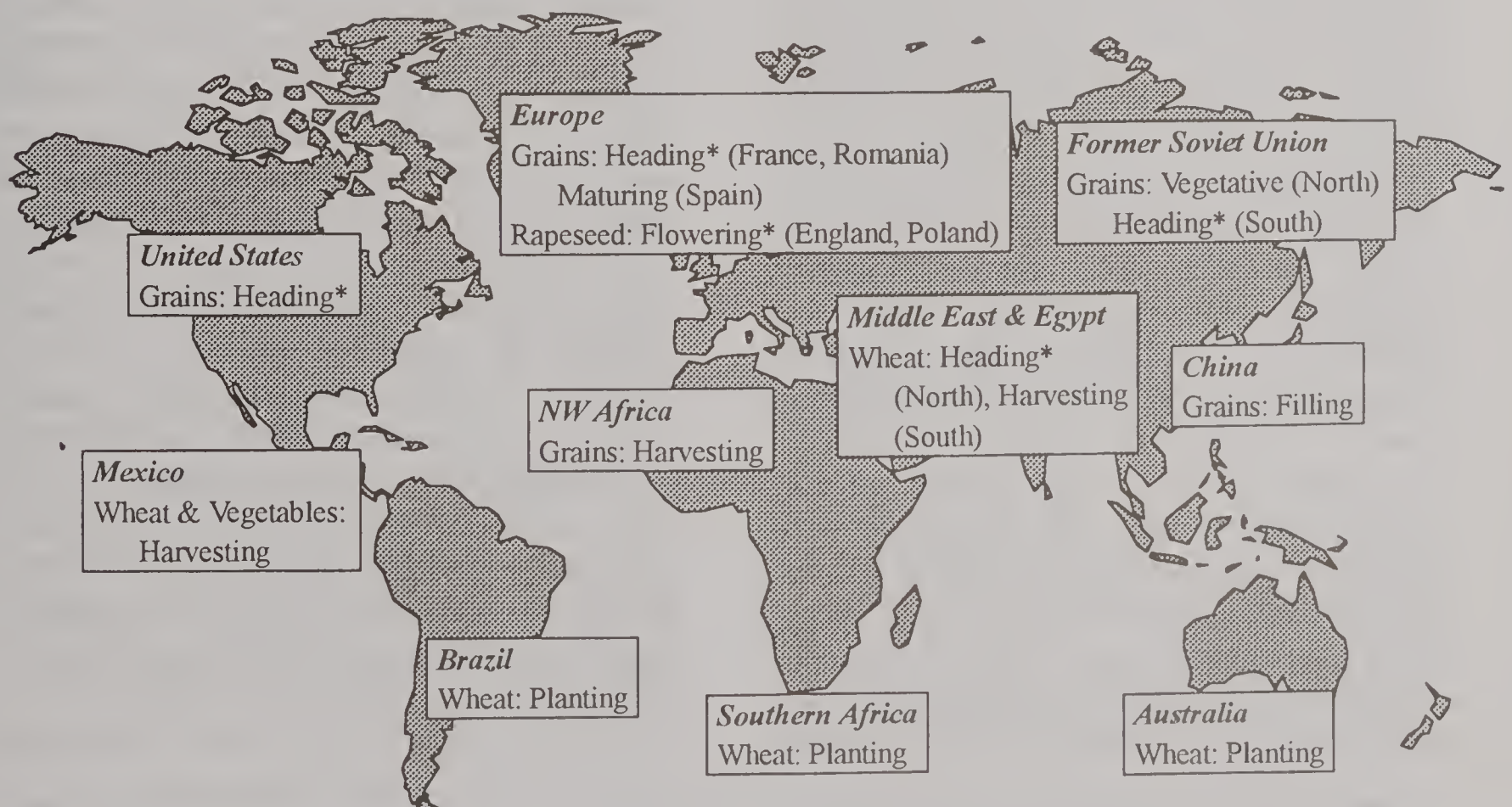
* Moisture / Temperature Sensitive Stage of Development

May Normal Crop Calendar

Summer crops



Winter crops



* Moisture / Temperature Sensitive Stage of Development

WEATHER BRIEFS

Northwestern Africa: No Significant Rainfall In March

Drought conditions continued during March 2000 throughout the winter grain growing areas of Northwestern Africa. The first soaking rainfall since last Autumn fell across Morocco during the week of April 2 - 8. This rainfall, with amounts ranging from 25 to over 100 millimeters, came too late to improve winter grain yields. Rainfall was more frequent during March in eastern Algeria and Tunisia than in Morocco and western Algeria, but amounts were still below normal. Recent rain in Tunisia did stabilize crop conditions, preventing further reduction in crop yields. The heavy rains of early April were confined to Morocco.

Middle East: Winter Grains Hurt By Dryness In Syria and Iran

Rainfall during March 2000, continued to be below normal across much of Iran and Syria, where rainfall was less than 50 percent of normal across eastern and western Syria and 50 to 75 percent of normal in Iran. Rainfall has been below normal in these areas during the entire winter grains growing season. Temperatures during March were near-normal across most of the region, but temperatures in eastern Syria were 1 - 3 degrees C above normal and temperature across Iran were generally 3 - 5 degrees C above normal. During the first week of April, temperatures rose to 3 - 5 degrees C across much of Syria, and were as much as 7 degrees above normal in eastern Syria and parts of Iran, further stressing winter grains. During March, winter grains are in the moisture critical "filling" stage and by the second week of April, harvesting begins in southern-most growing areas of the Middle East. Harvest begins in Syria in May

and can continue into northern Iran into August.

Elsewhere, March rainfall was above normal in western and eastern Turkey, northwest Syria, and Israel. In Israel, March rainfall was up-to 125 percent of normal. In Turkey, precipitation was 150 to 200 percent of normal over much of the western winter wheat growing region. Temperatures were 1 - 3 degrees C below normal in Israel during March, 1 - 3 degrees C below normal in western Turkey, and as much as 5 degrees below normal in eastern Turkey. Above normal temperatures returned to these areas during the first week of April.

Spain: March Rainfall Brings Some Relief

During March 19 - 31, 2000, much needed rain fell across major growing areas of Spain. This rainfall improved topsoil moisture for germinating and emerging spring-sown crops. However, follow-up rain is needed to significantly improve the condition of drought-stressed winter grains in the southern areas. At the end of March, winter grains are usually entering the moisture-critical reproductive stage. In February, unseasonably warm, dry weather stressed vegetative winter grains in Spain. Despite good planting weather during September and October, February was the fourth consecutive month with below normal rainfall, and dryness continued into mid-March. Warmer-than-normal March temperatures, continued to stress winter crops and caused them to develop about 1 to 2 weeks ahead of schedule. During the first week of April, rainfall, in the amounts of 10 to 25 millimeters, was welcome across much of Spain and temperatures were slightly cooler than normal.

FEATURE COMMODITY ARTICLES

Foreign Winter Grain Area Projected Higher for the 2000/01 Crops

This article presents early indications of Northern Hemisphere winter grain prospects outside the United States based on reports from U.S. agricultural attaches stationed overseas and analysis by Washington-based USDA personnel. A special thanks goes to the World Agricultural Outlook Board/Joint Agricultural Weather Facility who have continually supplied FAS with world agricultural weather information and analyses. The first forecast of 2000/01 area, yield, and production for wheat and coarse grains will be released May 12.

Summary: Total foreign winter grain area for 2000/01 most likely will be higher than the area achieved in 1999/2000, although there are regional differences. Changes in the European Union (EU) Common Agricultural Policy has encouraged producers to plant more wheat and less oilseeds. In the EU, with the exception of Spain, yield prospects are favorable based on weather to-date. In Russia, winter grains area is reportedly higher than last season and winterkill losses are down. Farms, however, are still operating under severe cash shortages. In the Middle East, winter grain crop prospects are favorable for Turkey, but guarded for Syria, Iraq, and Iran due to below normal rainfall. In Pakistan, area is projected to increase as a result of new procurement prices established by the government. Crop prospects are very favorable. In Eastern Europe, winter grain area is projected higher than 1999/2000 due to more favorable planting weather than a year earlier and conditions are generally favorable for normal crop development. However, financial constraints continue to plague producers in many countries. In Ukraine, the area planted to winter grains is reportedly down from last season and crop prospects are guarded due to

fall dryness and financial constraints. For India, dry weather in western states may have marginally reduced wheat area. Mild weather across the main northern growing areas boosted crop prospects. In Pakistan, area is projected to increase as a result of higher procurement prices established by the government. However, low reservoir levels have mitigated yield potential. For China, area is projected lower due to government policy encouraging higher quality wheat and cash crops. However, yield prospects are favorable due to adequate soil moisture throughout most of the season to-date. In Northwest Africa, favorable planting weather gave way to drought and crop prospects have diminished. In Mexico, low reservoir levels may constrain wheat yield potential.

China: Winter wheat area (which accounts for 85 percent of China's winter grain production) is projected to decline in 2000/01, according to a planting survey released by the State Statistics Bureau. China's winter wheat area is reportedly down about 1.8 million hectares or 7 percent from last year; however, some recent reports suggest that actual area may not be cut as much as previously expected. Sharply-lower wheat prices and changes in the government's procurement policy led farmers along the Yangtze River to switch from low-quality winter wheat to winter rapeseed and other cash crops. Winter wheat area in western provinces and spring wheat area in the Northeast is also forecast lower in 2000/01.

Planting for the new crop began in mid-September in the northern part of the growing region and was completed in southern areas by the end of October. Scattered showers provided adequate moisture for germination and emergence over most of the North China

Plain, through dryness was a concern in northern and western wheat areas. Reports indicated that the crop entered dormancy in good condition. Light snow cover protected the dormant wheat from frigid temperatures in December and January, and no winterkill damage was reported. The weather since January has been generally favorable. Precipitation across the North China Plain was close to normal in January and February, except in western Henan, western Hebei, and parts of Shaanxi, which remained dry through the winter. Warm and dry weather in March reduced soil moisture levels on the North China Plain and increased the need for supplemental irrigation, but drought conditions have not developed. Rainfall in southern wheat areas has been mostly abundant and soil moisture levels are moderate to high. Yield prospects are favorable at this time.

European Union: Winter grains area for 2000/01 in the EU is projected to increase significantly from last season. Changes in the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) support prices for grains and oilseeds makes it more advantageous to grow grains this year. Therefore, producers are expected to shift area away from oilseeds and into grains, especially wheat. Yields are expected to be down from last year's unusually high yields which were the result of very favorable weather. Unseasonably warm temperatures this spring caused grains in western Europe to break dormancy several weeks early, just as they did last year. There was little snow cover to protect dormant winter grains this winter, but temperatures were so mild that there was little danger from winterkill. Temperatures have been so mild that some EU countries are concerned that it could enhance the development of fungal diseases and insects later in the growing season.

In Germany, planted area for grains is expected to rise significantly this year, especially for wheat. This increase follows a

drop in grain area last year caused by excessive rainfall during planting. Precipitation has been normal through the fall and winter with more favorable rains in the west. French area planted to winter grains is projected up over 1999/2000. France had less precipitation than normal in the south, but most of the winter grains are grown more in the north. The north experienced excessive rainfall in December and February and below normal in January, but it does not seem to have harmed the crops as plant growth is reportedly more advanced than at the same date in 1999. Area planted to winter grains is expected to be up in Spain and Portugal as there were favorable rains in September and October during planting. However, they received very little rain from November through mid-March, and moisture supplies were further diminished by unusually warm temperatures. Producers feared an even more devastating drought than last year, and like last year, the southern regions of both countries were the most severely affected. These southern regions were warmer, and crops break dormancy at an earlier date. Andalusia, which grows half of Spain's durum crop, received only one-quarter of its normal cumulative rainfall from planting through mid-March. Rainfall over the last few days of March and early April brought some relief to the crops. Yield prospects at this point appear to be similar-to or slightly better than last season. More rain is still needed to prevent further damage. In Italy wheat area is expected to be nearly unchanged for 2000/01; however, durum area may be slightly higher while soft wheat is lower. Italy was also dry for much of the winter, especially in the Po River Valley. Early April brought generous rainfall for northern and central Italy, relieving fears of drought. The United Kingdom's area planted to winter grains is projected to be up over last season as farmers switch from rapeseed. Planting of better quality varieties continues to increase in the UK. The important grain growing region in the

southeast of England had near-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures over the winter. Winter grain planted area is expected to return to pre-1998/99 levels in the Benelux countries. Last season's heavy rains kept fields too wet to plant and caused a significant loss of area. Rain has been plentiful during this winter with mild temperatures. Last year's Scandinavian winter grains area was low due to low soil moisture following a dry fall and winter. Producers planned to return to 1998/99 planting levels this season, but yields may be tempered by excessive dryness in portions of the grain growing area in Sweden.

Canada: Most of the winter wheat is grown in the province of Ontario and comprises less than 5 percent of Canada's total wheat crop. Ontario's planted winter wheat area is projected to be near the same level as last year, but production is expected to decline after last year's record yield. Unseasonably mild weather since late December, combined with adequate snow cover, lowered the potential for winterkill. However, seasonal precipitation has been below normal in the main winter grain area of southeastern Ontario, and timely spring rains will be needed as crops advance through the heading phases of development. Most of the small grain crops are grown in the Prairie Provinces, so spring rainfall is critical to provide soil moisture for the upcoming summer crops.

Russia: In Russia, winter grains were sown on approximately 13.4 million hectares for 2000/01, up from 12.3 million last year, according to data from the Ministry of Agriculture. Establishment conditions were generally favorable. Timely October rains reversed the dryness that prevailed during much of the planting season, and winter crops entered dormancy in good condition. A mild winter along with near- to above-normal precipitation favored overwintering crops. Although there were some brief episodes of bitterly cold weather that threatened winter

grains, an adequate snow cover protected crops from significant winterkill. According to analysts at Russia's Federal Weather Center, winterkill losses are down from last season: winter grains need to be replanted on 7 to 10 percent of the sown area, down from an estimated 15 percent last year.

According to the U.S. agricultural counselor in Moscow, the situation regarding agricultural inputs for Russian farms has improved only slightly from last year. Resource constraints persist, and farms are still operating under severe cash shortages. Supplies of fertilizer have increased from last year, but soil fertility remains low following years of inadequate fertilizer applications. The price of imported plant-protection chemicals is prohibitively high, and farmers are forced to use lower-quality domestically-produced products. Agricultural machinery and fuel remain in short supply. Although the outlook has begun to improve in some regions, including the North Caucasus (Russia's prime winter-wheat region), the overall poor financial condition of the agricultural sector will continue to impede improvement in grain yield and quality.

Ukraine: According to Ukrainian agricultural officials, approximately 7.4 million hectares of winter grains were sown for 2000/01, down from 7.6 million the previous year. Unfavorable dryness hampered winter-crop planting and establishment throughout most of the country. The dryness was most acute in south-central growing areas. Although crops in eastern Ukraine received some of the beneficial moisture that fell in the neighboring North Caucasus region of Russia in early October, drought conditions worsened in south-central Ukraine. Officials reported in early February that roughly 1.5 million hectares of the sown area did not sprout and would need to be replanted in the spring. Subsequent reports indicate that crop conditions have since improved, due to mild winter weather accompanied by near- to

above-normal precipitation. Timely spring rains and mild weather will be needed to further improve crop conditions.

In Ukraine, as in Russia, chronic below-optimum applications of fertilizer and plant-protection agents will hamper winter-grain yield. Winter-grain production fell to the lowest level in over 30 years in 1999/2000, and the U.S. agricultural office in Kiev reports that prospects for significant improvement are slim, with struggling farms unable to purchase quality seed, fertilizer, pesticides, or fuel.

Middle East: Turkey's grain production prospects for 2000/01 are currently favorable, although normal rainfall is needed the remainder of the growing season to ensure proper development. Plantings are similar to last season. Following a drier-than-normal autumn, a return to a more seasonable pattern brought beneficial precipitation to the region. Snow cover throughout the grain growing region during the winter was beneficial and, when combined with cold weather, should lessen the impact of pests in commonly infested areas. Wheat is the largest crop and barley the second largest crop in Turkey, with the Central Anatolia region growing more than any other region (about 40 percent). For Iran and eastern Syria, rainfall throughout most of the season has been below normal for most of their grain regions, but over last year's levels. Recent March rain in northern Iran could help stabilize the 2000/01 wheat prospects, but more rain is needed across the entire region. The 2000/01 wheat crop in Syria has experienced long-term dryness, but rainfall in late January across the eastern growing region temporarily improved crop production prospects. A return to dry weather in February stressed the crop until recently, when light showers helped to stabilize the grains. Production prospects for the non-irrigated crops remain guarded as it begins the heading phase of development. About 40 percent of

wheat area is irrigated, while all the barley is rainfed. Rainfall across northern Saudi Arabia has been favorable for pasture conditions and may lessen the need for feed grain imports. Satellite imagery and weather observations from neighboring countries depicted unfavorable dryness in Iraq during late February and March. Wheat and barley production is likely to be similar to last year's poor crop.

Pakistan: Portions of Pakistan's 2000/01 irrigated wheat are experiencing a water shortage. Following last season's weak monsoon, main reservoir levels are reported to be at historic lows. Production prospects now point a crop size similar to last year, despite an increase in area. The single most important factor for the positive outlook is the government's 25 percent increase in the procurement price of wheat to Rs. 7,500 (about \$145) per metric ton. As a result of the sharp increase in the procurement price, farmers: (1) increased fertilizer usage and seeding rates (sources estimate consumption of phosphatic fertilizers increased 40 percent due to the expected higher returns as well as to lower fertilizer prices and better availability), and (2) planted more wheat (by switching out of sugarcane due to falling cane prices) and planted on a more timely basis (by limiting the third cotton picking due to low cotton prices). Additionally, as a result of the army's campaign to de-silt irrigation canals, better irrigation supplies and adequate soil moisture at planting have been highly favorable for the crops. Timely winter rains have boosted prospects for rain-fed production (which accounts for roughly 16 percent of total wheat production). Relatively cool weather through the third week of February has helped to improve prospects for the late-planted crop. Thus far, there have been isolated reports of rust affecting minor varieties. Temperatures through early April, which are important determinant of yield, have been normal. The crop requires a gradual

increase in temperature during flowering and filling. Sharp temperature increases during this period will diminish yields. Harvest has begun in Sindh, but thus far through the first few weeks of harvest, procurement has been behind the pace of previous years.

India: India's winter wheat output for 2000/01 is projected to be similar to last season's record output of nearly 71 million tons. India's 2000/01 wheat planting took place during the optimal planting period (mid-October to mid-December) in most states. Below-normal rainfall during the summer monsoon in Rajasthan and Gujarat resulted in a decrease in India's wheat area. The crop in the two largest surplus wheat growing states of Punjab and Haryana are in good condition, and may approach last year's record production. A promising outlook exists in most other states, particularly Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Wheat production in these central states is likely to partially offset any shortfall in western India. The average to slightly cooler temperatures during the first two weeks of March will benefit this season's final yields and promote quality. Final grain quality will depend on weather conditions from now until harvest. Overall, above average wheat yields are expected due to the increasing use of certified seed, herbicide availability, excellent temperatures and relatively timely rainfall in most regions. About 80 percent of India's wheat crop is at least partially irrigated, but irrigation facilities are not as widespread in marginal surplus states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where the crop is more dependent on winter rains.

Eastern Europe: Total winter grain area in most of Eastern Europe for 2000/01 is projected to be higher than last year's flood-reduced area. However, input costs and financial difficulties remain the limiting factors as credit is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain. In turn, farmers in

countries most strapped for money are continuing to forgo fertilizers and crop boosting measures, inevitably leading to stagnating yields.

As a whole, the weather has been primarily beneficial to winter grains since their sowing last autumn. Southeastern Europe started the crop season with an extended period of dryness during September and October, which lengthened the sowing period and delayed emergence. Adequate moisture levels were maintained across the north throughout the fall and winter. The south recovered moisture later in the fall. The second half of November saw unseasonably cold weather and snow slowing development and placing crops into dormancy. A mostly mild winter produced temperatures averaging slightly above normal. A few cold outbreaks occurred during periods of snowcover and/or remained above the winterkill threshold, inflicting little crop damage. Often snow cover was marginal, but temperatures remained high, and crop protection was not required. Total moisture levels over the winter have tended towards average and were adequate for the spring emergence. Recently however, a warm spring has enabled crops to begin easing out of dormancy early throughout Eastern Europe, and snowmelt coupled with spring rains have caused localized flooding in Hungary and Romania.

Specifically, winter grain area planted in Poland for the 2000/01 is expected to have fallen from last year's level. A mild winter has resulted in little winterkill and spring rains are normal. Yield prospects are tempered by a lack of available credit that continues to hampers farmers efforts in securing fertilizer.

Winter wheat area in the Czech Republic is expected to increase. After much of Eastern Europe suffered from a dismal 1999/2000 wheat season, wheat demand is expected to rise and Czech farmers are expected to take advantage of the market, sowing more area to

wheat and increasing total winter grain area. Likewise, realizing that high quality wheat is demanded outside Hungary, particularly after a disappointing regional crop throughout most of Eastern Europe last year, Hungarian farmers are projected to increase area. An added incentive to grow more wheat in Hungary came as the government announced that it would subsidize seeds. Although spring flooding damaged winter grain area in Hungary, the damage inflicted so far this year is much less severe than last year when repeated flood and storm damage throughout the crop season severely reduced last year's wheat crop to one of the lowest levels in many years. Winter grains in Romania are projected to increase slightly as weather conditions are much better than 1999. Winter wheat area in Bulgaria for 2000/01 is projected to be lower than last season. A favorable autumn and winter should benefit the crop, but inputs such as fertilizers will be critical to lift yields. Currently, farmers are lacking the capital to purchase vital inputs, and the fertilizer/chemical plants are also experiencing financial difficulties which could lower their sales. For former Yugoslavia, Serbia-Montenegro are projected to increase sown area to winter grains. However, high cost of farm inputs will again limit their use and mitigate yield potential. After one of its worst harvests in thirty years, Croatia is expected to rebound in wheat area this season and more fertilizer supplies have been acquired. Yield potential is expected to rebound following a poor outturn in 1999/2000. Slovenia is also expected to increase area after a cold rainy 1999/2000 season produced less desirable wheat, which yielded unusually high moisture content. In Bosnia-Herzegovina winter grain area is expected to decline as input costs rise, but the same floor price for wheat is maintained, thus lowering incentives for planting.

Northern Africa: Winter grain crops in

portions of Northwest Africa are projected to suffer from a second straight year of below normal rainfall. After receiving nearly optimal weather conditions from early rains arriving in October and lasting through mid-December, Moroccan farmers finished planting winter grains in December. Crops were planted under ideal soil moisture levels and production expectations were high. However, rain has been practically nonexistent since the beginning of January. Rainfall during the first two months of this year averaged 25 millimeters or just 23 percent of normal. Soil moisture levels are depleted and further rain will not save the Moroccan grain harvest. Harvest is expected to begin early after a warmer than average growing season, but the results are certain to be a disappointment.

Algeria received beneficial weather for sowing, however it was delayed a month because abundant rains didn't arrive until November. Western Algeria has been perpetually centered under the same high pressure system as Morocco. While re-routing storm systems away from the country, the high also inflicted Western Algeria with above average temperatures. These temperatures have increased the evaporation of scant moisture levels. Little rainfall has occurred since the beginning of January and like Morocco, any future rain will be too late for the moisture starved plants. Eastern regions of Algeria have fared somewhat better as occasional shower activity has kept soil moisture levels adequate for development of winter grains. However, as dryness continues over all of Northwest Africa, more rainfall is needed immediately.

The best over-winter conditions in the Maghreb have been enjoyed by Tunisia, which has experienced more rain and more frequent rainfall. Occasional showers and infrequent rains during winter and early spring has given Tunisians hope in attaining an "average" crop if rains arrive in April. The wheat crop grown

in the northern zones have received more regular precipitation than the barley areas. Crop prospects are better for wheat than barley, which is grown on marginal land.

Projections for Egyptian winter grains is that area should remain the same as last year. Yields should edge upward as higher yielding varieties are planted and better farming practices are utilized. All the wheat is irrigated.

Mexico: The 2000/01 winter wheat area is projected to be slightly higher than last season, but yield prospects are guarded due to what the Mexican National Water Commission (CNA) has termed a shortage of rain in 1999, and some municipalities in the northern and central states have reportedly instituted water rationing. The irrigated wheat areas of northern Mexico began the fall/winter season well, as reservoir levels in November were high enough coming out of the rainy season (May-October 1999) to allow CNA to release water at planting. However, reservoirs levels were still below normal. At the end of January 2000 (into the dry season), the reservoirs were down significantly in every Mexican irrigation district. The northwest region experienced a drop to 25 percent of normal for that period, and the levels were even further down by the end of February 2000. The need for water coming out of winter dormancy may have placed the wheat crop in jeopardy, as it is not clear that CNA will authorize the release of spring 2000 allocations. Better than 90 percent of Mexico's annual wheat production comes from the fall/winter cycle, and the northwest accounts for about 40 percent of the fall/winter production. In addition, Mexico's south central reservoirs related to agriculture need to be replenished, although this area has received scattered rainfall.

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Morocco and Tunisia Field Travel: Moroccan Drought Caused Grain Losses, but Tunisia May Recover

During the second half of March a USDA team traveled through the main agricultural regions of Morocco and Tunisia. The purpose of this trip was to assess winter grain (wheat and barley) conditions in Northwest Africa. The team spent most of the trip on field travel, often stopping to talk with farmers to gain insight into this season's crop. Additionally, meetings with government officials assisted the team in understanding the current situation. The trip coincided with the second straight drought season experienced in Morocco, with the 2000/01 season more severe. For the 1999/2000 season, Morocco produced 2.1 million tons of wheat and 1.4 million tons of barley. In Tunisia, recent rainfall has averted a below average crop; however, more rain is still needed to improve crop prospects. For 1999/2000, Tunisia produced 1.4 million tons of wheat and 0.4 million tons of barley. On May 12, USDA will release the first forecast of 2000/01 area, yield, and production for wheat and coarse grains.

Morocco (March 19 - March 22)

The team started in Casablanca and traveled south to Marrakech. During the initial leg of the trip it became quickly apparent that the winter grains were struggling from a severe lack of rain. The non-irrigated wheat had not headed. The soil was dry with large cracks that crisscrossed the fields. According to a local farmer, since the rains shut off in early January, weeds never had a chance to develop, so herbicide was not needed nor used. In a "normal" year fertilizer would have been used, but according to him, it would have been of little benefit during this dry period, so it was also forgone.

Rains arrived early during the autumn season, so winter grain planting started earlier than usual. With the October start to the season, optimistic expectations led to an increase in

planted area. Most of the country's agriculture is entirely dependent upon rainfall occurring at the right times during the growing season and by March, it was apparent that a second straight year of drought destroyed any expectations of a good crop, and that a very poor crop would be realized.

Although the vast majority of field crops are rainfed, there are however, limited pockets of irrigation. The dominant type of irrigation here is flood irrigation. It is practiced in some of the fields, but the use of this greatly limited resource in such an arid climate requires strict management. Farmers can only flood their fields during the most critical times in the hopes that this will maximize results of scant water supplies. Typically, diesel pumps bring deep well water to the surface. The water then flows to the fields along elevated and open troughs that release the water to ditches traversing the fields. The observed fields that had flood irrigation were in fair to good condition, while those without were drying down prematurely.

South around Marrakech, wheat is often replaced by barley, as the soil became more rocky, and where rainfall is typically less frequent. The team took a short drive south of Marrakech into more elevated terrain. The barley crop along the hills was still developing, but looked to be in good condition. The orographic effect from the nearby mountains and the increase in elevation obviously squeezed additional moisture onto the fields, saving them from the fate of the crops below.

Following the major growing area, the group drove northeast and parallel to the western edge of the Atlas Mountains, passing through the towns of Kelaa Sraghna, Beni Meallal, Kenifra, Ifrane and Fes. During an early stop along this segment, the observed crop was

heading and looked fairly well because it had been flood irrigated. Additionally, a producer said that he had used fertilizer, but no pesticides. The predictable result was a promising crop, but on a field infested with many weeds.

Further along, the team stopped at a much more common sight, a non-irrigated field. The thin crop grown showed little- to- no tillering. Checking the grain heads revealed many blanks. This was a typical scenario. Many of the crops viewed were now without heads and often dead. Occasionally, sheep were permitted to graze the crop when fields were determined unfit for harvest.

Towards Kenifra (830 m) and on to Ifrane (1650 m) the effects of elevation were dramatic on the condition of the crops. They were no longer dried out, but green and growing fairly well. The increased altitude was enough to increase cloud cover and rainfall, which in turn increased soil moisture, induced cooling and lowered the evaporation rate. While the plants were not dense (3-4 tillers per plant), they were healthy and just beginning to head. However, the soil was more marginal and contained many stones lying on top of the soil throughout the fields.

Dropping in elevation around Fes, fields again showed drying down and the wheat was without heads. Many of the fields were dead, but depending upon when the crop was planted, sections remained green and could still be salvaged. Apparently, if any moisture arrived at just the right time in the crop stage, the crop was saved from prematurely drying out. An estimated one-fourth of these fields will produce grain at harvest if rain is received immediately. (Recent rainfall has stabilized the crops in this area.) Finally, going west towards the Atlantic coast, and through a major agriculture production zone around

Meknes and Rabat, the fields were noticeably larger, the soil was better, and the crop condition improved.

Tunisia (March 24 - March 27)

Tunisia was more fortunate than Morocco in the amount of rain received, and the timing of the rainfall throughout the season. A month after rains began in Morocco, precipitation arrived in Tunisia. Farmers began sowing with the arrival of these November rains. Good planting weather with abundant rain continued through December. Starting in January, the rains lessened in amount and frequency, but occasional showers still maintained adequate moisture levels throughout the winter and into the early spring, unlike the extreme conditions further west in Morocco.

The predominant field crop region (consisting of wheat and barley) is situated along the northern coast, extending south up to about 200 km. Three-fourths of Tunisian wheat is durum, while only one-fourth is soft wheat, therefore Tunisia looks to imports to fill its bread wheat demand.

The USDA team set off from Tunis and traveled through the primary growing region by taking a route through Bizerte, Beja, Jendouba, Le Kef and TebourSouk. The crops that were planted around late November showed normal growth and still had not begun to head. The weather was fairly cold during January through February which assisted in tillering. Maximum area had been planted in the North.

As the team drove west towards Algeria, the land increased in elevation and the topsoil became more shallow and mixed with small rocks. The high plateau grows between 25-30 percent of Tunisia's wheat. Here the crops showed signs of stress, but the wheat was still developing and had not yet headed. Many

fields showed irregularities in growth and health due to hand fertilization (broadcasting) with nitrogen or phosphorous. In addition, removing weeds from the fields is also often done by hand. Only 10 percent of the grain area in Tunisia is irrigated.

Cracks in the dry soil were noticed and occasional appearances of operating sprinklers or pivot irrigation systems were also in place. Driving towards the interior and just south of Jendouba, sheep and goats grazed stressed crops. Roughly 200 kilometers inland from the Mediterranean Coast, the stress from a lack of moisture was easily noticed. Additionally, in some areas, the crop had become wind burned. The increased evaporation from the winds had depleted all of the surface soil moisture and its effects in many of these fields will likely be irreversible, even with additional rain that could arrive later.

The second part of the crop assessment trip in Tunisia found the team traveling south from Tunis through Fahs, Siliana, Kairouan, Enfidha, and back to Tunis. This region is largely a barley producing area. Agriculture in this location is of secondary importance in grain production to the northern zone. Yields in these areas are lower because the region lies fairly distant from the higher moisture totals which are concentrated along the northern coast. However, depending upon the track of storms, this region can have a large planted area and be very productive in years that the rains slide south.

Again, driving onto the high plateau, the crops were doing well, but additional moisture would ensure the success of the harvest. The region of Siliana is the southwest limit for grain production; Further south, the lack of rainfall denies even barley proper growth. The region towards Kairouan was in need of rain, and the hot, dry conditions had induced some of the crops to head earlier than normal. On the drive north to Tunis, along the eastern coast, oats were observed to be growing in a number of fields.

Tunisia, with the additional rains being received in early April should salvage an “average” crop. Morocco will not fare so fortunate, as much of the crop is already dead and will not be harvested. Western Algeria is suffering with Morocco, but the eastern region is more similar to Tunisia with little, but occasional moisture permitting crops to advance. As these countries struggle to produce grain for the 2000/01 season, an obvious import situation has developed.

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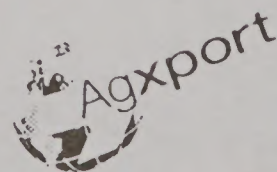
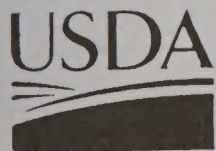
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